

Mandela wins freedom



Some 125,000 supporters of the African National Congress packed the soccer stadium in Soweto, South Africa, February 13 to welcome ANC leader Nelson Mandela, released two days earlier after spending more than 27 years in apartheid's prisons.

'The final chapter of our struggle has opened'

BY GREG McCARTAN

"Amandla!" (Power!), Nelson Mandela shouted to the massive crowd in Cape Town, South Africa.

"Ngawethu!" (It is ours!), tens of thousands responded.

Mandela, freed from 27 years imprisonment just hours earlier, began his first public speech since 1964 with a tribute to the freedom fighters in South Africa and internationally who "have made it possible for me to be here today."

The black, green, and yellow flag of the ANC flew in the crowd and thousands wore anti-apartheid T-shirts and carried homemade signs.

The exuberant rally greeting the African National Congress leader in Cape Town February 11 coincided with similar events across South Africa and around the world. Tens of millions celebrated the historic event and viewed live television broadcasts of Mandela walking proudly out of Victor Verster Prison with a raised clenched fist.

Thousands of Blacks and whites lined the route from the prison to Cape Town cheering and waving signs reading, "Welcome home, Mandela."

Hundreds of miles away in the township of Soweto thousands more gathered outside of Mandela's home to celebrate the victory.

"Today the majority of South Africans, Black and white, recognize that apartheid has no future," he said in the Cape Town address. "It has to be ended by our own decisive mass actions in order to build peace and security."

Mandela, given a life sentence in 1964 on charges of sabotage, was unconditionally released by South African President F.W. de Klerk. He emerged from jail as an international leader, fighting for the same goals as when he organized mass strikes, defiance campaigns, and armed resistance to apartheid rule three decades ago.

While in prison Mandela sought to educate other prisoners on many subjects, including the anti-apartheid fight. Robben Island, where he spent most of his years in jail, is reserved for Black prisoners. The island became known among its inmates as "Mandela University."

Mandela's release comes on the heels of a string of concessions by the Pretoria regime over the past several months. Other ANC leaders jailed with Mandela have been freed; the ANC, South African Communist Party, and Pan Africanist Congress have been unbanned; restrictions on 60 organizations and numerous anti-apartheid activists have been lifted; most aspects of press censorship have been removed; the death penalty has been suspended; and jailings without warrants have been limited to six months.

Mandela's speech was carried on South African television. Newspapers carried his picture and news of the events. Just days before, quoting Mandela and other ANC leaders had been illegal.

These victories are a result of "the large-scale mass mobilization of the past few years," and have "led to the opening of the

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Eastern strikers: 'March on March 4'

BY SUSAN LaMONT

For thousands of Eastern Airlines strikers and their supporters in the United States, Canada, Puerto Rico, and around the world, March 4 will be a day to celebrate the strength of the year-long walkout, along with its renewed momentum and widening support.

In many cities, striking Machinists union members are planning rallies, airport walk-throughs, expanded picket lines, and other events on the March 2-4 weekend to mark 365 days on the picket line — and inviting other unions, student groups, churches, and Black rights organizations to join with them in a show of support.

The scope of actions already planned demonstrates the strikers' growing confidence in their ability — with solidarity from the rest

of the labor movement — to defeat Eastern's reorganization plan and block the establishment of another nonunion airline.

From Miami, International Association of Machinists (IAM) Local 702 President Frank Ortis reported in a telephone interview that strikers there are planning a rally at the airport March 4. The strike has picked up steam in recent weeks, Ortis explained, in part because major newspapers have begun confirming what strikers have been saying for months about the unviability of Texas Air Corp. Chairman Frank Lorenzo's "reorganization" plan for Eastern.

"The support for our strike in the labor movement is as strong as ever," Ortis stressed, noting that the AFL-CIO has taken the lead in urging Congress to override Pres-

ident George Bush's veto of a "blue ribbon" panel to investigate the conflict at Eastern.

Miami strikers have issued a leaflet for the upcoming rally urging everyone to "march forth on March the Fourth."

"March 4, 1989, was an historic day in the story of American labor," it says. "The workers of Eastern Airlines struck, marking the beginning of a turnaround for organized labor, by sending corporate America a clear,

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Union solidarity needed for striking Pittston coal miners

February 14 marked the 316th day of the strike by members of the United Mine Workers of America against Pittston Coal Group.

This battle, which has spurred widespread solidarity and resistance in the coalfields and has won support from union-

ists throughout the world, today faces a serious crisis.

EDITORIAL

ists throughout the world, today faces a serious crisis.

There has been widespread feeling that the announcement of a tentative contract six weeks ago ended the fight. As a result, trips to the strikers' Camp Solidarity have slackened off in the recent weeks. Fewer miners, Eastern strikers, and other workers are helping staff Pittston picket lines or inviting Pittston strikers to their union meetings. But the strike is not settled. Pittston miners haven't seen or voted on a contract.

Now more than ever the ties forged in struggle over the past year between Pittston miners and other unionists, especially the strikers at Eastern Airlines, should be strengthened.

On April 5, 1,700 UMWA miners walked off the job at Pittston mines in Virginia and West Virginia after working 14 months without a contract. They were joined nine weeks later by 200 Pittston miners in Kentucky.

These strikers saw the handwriting on the wall when Pittston refused to sign the industry-wide pact reached between coal operators and the mine union in 1988.

Pittston strikers decided to put up a fight to save their union and beat back the company's attacks. And so did UMWA members across the country, who also joined the battle. On June 11 some 44,000 miners in 10 states began walking off their jobs to

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As we go to press mine union President Richard Trumka has just announced plans to go ahead with a vote on a tentative contract despite a court ruling refusing to drop fines against the union. Voting is slated for February 19.

Help distribute Mandela's 'The Struggle Is My Life'

BY GREG McCARTAN

The Militant and Pathfinder Press have launched a campaign to sell thousands of copies of the book, *Nelson Mandela: The Struggle Is My Life* and the Spanish-language book *Habla Nelson Mandela*. The editor of the Militant, Doug Jenness, and Pathfinder officers Steve Clark and Mary-Alice Waters are urging all supporters of the freedom struggle in South Africa to join the effort. The Young Socialist Alliance is mobilizing its members and supporters to go all out in the campaign.

This drive can reach many of the millions who are celebrating Mandela's release from prison. He has emerged as a leader of revolutionary, democratic, and progressive-minded people the world over.

In a statement written from prison in July 1989 Mandela wrote, "My political beliefs have been explained in the course of several political trials in which I was charged, in the policy documents of the ANC [African National Congress], and

in my autobiography *The Struggle Is My Life*."

"I will continue fighting for freedom until the end of my days," Mandela says in the book. After more than 27 years of imprisonment, Mandela has come out fighting to fulfill that pledge.

From struggles of the 1940s and '50s and the adoption of the Freedom Charter, through the repression by the apartheid regime, launching of the armed struggle, and the early 1960s treason trials of leaders of the mass movement, the 278 pages of Mandela's writings and speeches document the liberation fight from the viewpoint of a leading participant in it.

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Special sales trips bring new readers at job sites

Aside from selling the *Militant* to workers at a few job sites each week, supporters of the paper in Vancouver, British Columbia, in Canada

June. The unionists were interested in hearing news on the Eastern Airlines strike and the fight against Pittston Coal.

copies of the *Militant*. Several were aware of the ongoing strike at Eastern and wanted more information. Union officers there plan to investigate ways of organizing solidarity with Eastern strikers.

pickets," recalled Marshall. "They were worried miners would stay off the job when they saw us. 'These miners are a 'picky' bunch,' said one boss."

The second team to Florence No. 2 found the miners had already gone back to work, but many stopped to talk as they drove out of the mine. "We sold 10 papers and met a young miner who pulled over to talk for about 20 minutes. He called himself a rebel and said he'd stopped reading the newspaper but the *Militant* looked like something he would like," said Marshall. "We exchanged names and phone numbers and planned to keep in touch."

While visiting the Canadian province of Nova Scotia, a supporter of the *Militant* traveled to talk to workers in Canso on January 23. Canso is a small fishing village on the Atlantic Ocean threatened with the closure of the local fish-processing plant. The plant employs 750 workers and 150 fishermen and is the only major employer for 100 miles. In early January 3,000 people gathered

in the town for a rally to oppose the plant closing. The Nova Scotia Federation of Labour has called another rally for February 17.

At the plant gate the *Militant* supporter introduced the paper to workers at the lunch hour and afternoon shift change.

One worker came out of the plant at 4:00 p.m. and said, "I was reading one of your papers in the lunch room." He wanted to share his views on the fight to stop the plant closing. "It will all depend on how much support we get from other unions and the media," said the fish-processing worker. "If we get a lot, then the government will have to act to keep the plant open."

The workers bought 12 single copies of the *Militant*, four subscriptions, and four copies of the pamphlet *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*.

Larry Johnston and Tony DiFelice from Vancouver, British Columbia, Holly Harkness from Pittsburgh, and Roger Annis from Montréal contributed to this week's column.



GETTING THE MILITANT AROUND

decided to take a trip to visit lead and zinc workers several hundred miles away.

Two *Militant* supporters visited Teck-Cominco's Sullivan mine in Kimberly and the nearby Cominco smelter in Trail four days before the mine was shut down January 31 and some 750 miners and production workers were thrown out of work.

They were welcomed by union officials of United Steelworkers of America Local 651 in Kimberly and Local 480 in Trail and learned more about the mine shutdown and the union's contract, which expires in

At the mine portal and smelter gate *Militant* supporters talked with workers who viewed the closing of their mine as a contract ploy to try and force the union to give concessions.

They explained that the mine has been the backbone of Cominco's lead and zinc operation for more than 80 years. The mine still has some 10 years of reserves, and in spite of recent drops in zinc prices, most workers thought closing the mine was unnecessary.

Seven workers at the Sullivan mine and 12 at the smelter bought

Pittsburgh workers who help distribute the *Militant* in the western Pennsylvania coalfields made a special trip out to Rochester & Pittsburgh Coal Co.'s Florence No. 2 mine in late January. They had just seen a newspaper report that miners there had walked off the job to protest the company's purchase of coal from Valley Coal Co., which is kept running with scabs. Members of the United Mine Workers of America have been on strike against Valley Coal Co. since August 1989.

Steve Marshall, one of the plant-gate salespeople, had just visited the Florence No. 2 mine a few weeks earlier with a traveling *Militant* sales team, which sold 16 single copies and three subscriptions at one shift change.

At that time "the mine supervisors came out to see if we were UMW

Mandela's release gives boost to 'Militant' sales

BY RONI McCANN

The calls to the *Militant* business office began early on February 12. One day after the release of Nelson Mandela, many distributors around the world had sold their week's supply of *Militants*. By the next day orders for 765 additional papers had come in from 18 cities.

In London 5,000 people filled the street in front of the South African embassy February 11 to celebrate Mandela's release. Supporters of the paper there sold 90 copies before the day was over, and 40 more copies were sold in Manchester as 200 people gathered for a welcoming meeting the same afternoon.

On February 10 in Washington, D.C., 70 people at an African National Congress anniversary event bought copies of the *Militant*. The full text of Mandela's first major published statement in over 25 years was a big attraction, *Militant* supporters there reported. They ordered 40 more papers for the week and increased the size of their next bundle.

Between a teach-in on El Salvador and a meeting to celebrate Mandela's release, *Militant* supporters in Boston sold their entire bundle on February 11.

Can boost renewal drive

The coverage in the *Militant* on the release of Nelson Mandela, and the continuing struggle for a united, democratic, nonracial South

Africa, will increase the sale of single copies and subscriptions and can boost the number of subscribers who renew.

The *Militant* has had extensive coverage on the upsurge in the freedom struggle in South Africa — a struggle that continues and is strengthened by the release of Mandela.

Militant supporters will want to bring subscribers' attention to the special offer for those who renew for six months or longer — \$1 off any copy of *New International* magazine, including No. 5 with "The Coming Revolution in South Africa," by Jack Barnes, and "The Future Belongs to the Majority," by ANC President Oliver Tambo.

The four-week campaign to win long-term readers of the socialist press has one week to go. Fighters' confidence worldwide has been strengthened by Mandela's release. This adds momentum to the continuing battle by the Machinists against Eastern as the strikers and their supporters organize events on March 3-4 to mark the anniversary of the strike.

Militant supporters are redoubling their efforts by calling Eastern strikers, coal miners, young people, opponents of apartheid, and other readers urging them to renew now.

Workers distributing the *Militant* in Oakland, California, will be concentrating on visiting several readers this week who want to renew and buy some Pathfinder literature.

In calling subscribers, they have found several who had renewed on their own. Others wanted to take the opportunity to discuss the Eastern strike and ask questions.

In Pittsburgh, two Eastern strikers have renewed their subscriptions along with four steelworkers, a miner, and two students so far. Through the fight at Eastern, one striker has been reading the paper and recommending others do the same, including making a pitch for the *Militant* to Pittston strike supporters while on a trip to the miners' Camp Solidarity.

'Absolutely' wants to resubscribe

Militant supporters in Reykjavik, Iceland, have gotten five renewals so far and plan on stepping up their calls and visits this week. One reader phoned and asked to renew. The *Militant* coverage on Nicaragua and Cuba had attracted him initially, but he has also enjoyed the articles on the Eastern and Pittston strikes. A shipyard worker renewed his subscription for six months and another reader, who signed up last fall when he met *Militant* supporters in a supermarket parking lot, responded "absolutely" when called and asked if he wanted to resubscribe.

Toronto supporters have rounded up 14 renewals and have more visits lined up this week. One renewal was picked up at the home of a member of the International As-

sociation of Machinists who subscribes to the Spanish-language *Perspectiva Mundial*. There supporters met three other IAM members who were interested in discussing the Eastern strike.

"Our goal in Cleveland is to try and reach every reader in the state," reported the *Militant* sales director there. To date, three union auto workers have resubscribed, as well as one railworker and a professor from Malawi, who renewed for one year and bought \$42 worth of Pathfinder books.

In Montréal *Militant* supporters have picked up 19 renewals, including 10 to *Perspectiva Mundial*. They attribute their success to a well-organized system of dividing the city geographically and calling and visiting every reader. With each trip they take a "renewal kit" of the *New International* series, *An Action Program to Confront the Coming Economic Crisis*, and the new Pathfinder pamphlet *Panama: The Truth About the U.S. Invasion*.

One reader who is a student is considering a visit to the Eastern Airlines picket line to write a story for the university paper.

During the renewal campaign, the business office has logged 179 renewals to the *Militant* and *Perspectiva Mundial*, 96 from readers renewing for the first time. New subscriptions continue to come in as well — 561 since January 1.

If your subscription is running out . . . KEEP GETTING the MILITANT

Featured in the *Militant*:

Coverage on Cuba including the state of the economy and continuing protests denouncing U.S. aggression • Release of Nelson Mandela • Updates on the fight against Pittston and Eastern • Reports from Geneva on Mark Curtis Defense Committee activities.

SPECIAL RENEWAL OFFER

A savings on the Marxist magazine *New International*. With your *Militant* renewal of six months or longer take a dollar off the cover price of a *New International*, or get all six issues of it for \$25. Issue No. 1 features "Their Trotsky and Ours: Communist Continuity Today." No. 2 "The Working-Class Fight for Peace." No. 3 "Communism and the Fight for a Popular Revolutionary Government." No. 4 "The Crisis Facing Working Farmers." No. 5 "The Coming Revolution in South Africa." No. 6 "The Second Assassination of Maurice Bishop."



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Signed articles by contributors do not necessarily represent the *Militant's* views. These are expressed in editorials.

Curtis defense case introduced at UN commission in Geneva

Central America human rights leader backs Curtis fight

BY ANDY BUCHANAN
AND MICHEL PRAIRIE

GENEVA, Switzerland — An international delegation launching a long-term campaign to bring the case of Mark Curtis before the United Nations has made important progress here at the 46th session of the UN Commission on Human Rights.

Concluding a February 13 speech in which he exposed human rights violations in Central America, especially Guatemala, Ramón Custodio López introduced the case of Curtis before the assembly. López was speaking on behalf of the Service, Justice, and Peace in Latin America organization and is president of the Central America Committee on Human Rights.

"No state," he said, "can declare itself a perfect political model if a proportion of its inhabitants live in conditions of extreme poverty and ignorance, justifying this inequality by simply stating that only the best get ahead — or when that state denies or violates the political and civil rights of some of its inhabitants."

Rights denied to minorities

"Such is the case of the United States of America, which deprives the Afro-American population as well as indigenous ethnic minorities of Latin American origin of the right to genuine equality."

"I include here," López told the commission, "the case of the U.S. worker Mark Curtis, of the Caucasian race, who has been found guilty, in a context of judicial irregularities, and whose conviction assuredly has its origin in his active solidarity against the attempted firing and deportation of 17 Latin American workers from his place of work." López is a new endorser of Curtis' defense campaign.

A unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, Curtis is currently serving a 25-year prison term at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa on frame-up rape and burglary charges.

An international delegation of leaders and supporters of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee — headed by Kate Kaku, Curtis' wife — has been campaigning here for a week to present Curtis' fight for justice to participants in the UN commission's work. The UN body meets for six weeks each year and is com-

prised of delegations from 43 member countries. Another 80 countries send observers, as do a large number of nongovernmental organizations, or NGOs.

"This commission is an important forum where some of the most significant human rights cases around the world are raised," Kaku said. "We have found that the case of Mark Curtis has received a sympathetic hearing from many delegates here, especially those from NGOs. They see it as part of a much broader pattern of attacks on democratic rights taking place in the United States today. The airing of Curtis' case on the floor of the commission here is one reflection of his case's international importance."

Mandela's release

The work of the commission this year has been directly affected by developments in South Africa. Many speakers this week opened their remarks by hailing the release from prison of Nelson Mandela by the South African apartheid regime. A speaker from the International Indian Treaty Council noted that Mandela's "stance to maintain principles of equal opportunities and democracy for all gives credence to all political prisoners who have struggled to achieve a just social order."

Crispulo Igualikinya, a Panamanian Indian, delivered a sharp denunciation of the U.S. invasion and occupation of Panama. Other speakers focused on human rights abuses in a number of Latin American countries. There was also a sharp exchange over the continuing recognition by the UN of the murderous Pol Pot forces as the official representatives of Cambodia.

In the discussion on the "right to development," many delegates from countries oppressed by imperialism described the devastating impact on their people of the debts imposed on them by the International Monetary Fund, World Bank, and other imperialist banks.

Several participants in the commission have agreed to endorse Curtis' defense effort, including human rights attorneys Hrair Balian and Roger Wareham from the United States, and three leading human rights activists from Guatemala: Arturo Piedra Santa Dubach, Toribio Pineda García, and Juan León Alvarado.

Cuba's Radio Havana conducted a 15-

minute telephone interview with Kaku, who explained Curtis' fight and that of imprisoned Native American activist Leonard Peltier. Radio Zones, a French radio station, and the Geneva-based newspaper *Le Courier* also interviewed her.

Information about Curtis has also been distributed to major national and international press agencies covering the commission's session. A report on the delegation's trip to Geneva was carried in the February 8 *Des Moines Register*.

Members of the defense committee's delegation have held a series of meetings with representatives of various NGOs, including Amnesty International, Four Directions Council, Human Rights Advocates Inc., International Council of Churches, International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples, and the International Indian Treaty Council. Human Rights Internet, which promotes contact between the NGOs, assigned a staff worker to help the delegation link up with other groups.

Delegation members have also participated in briefings held for NGO members. Kaku spoke at one such meeting. Curtis supporters were also able to meet government representatives from Cuba, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Switzerland, China, and the Philippines at evening receptions hosted by the Spanish and Hungarian governments.

Support in Geneva

Outside of the commission, Curtis supporters held a meeting with the Geneva city leadership of the Socialist Workers Party, which expressed an interest in helping to promote the defense effort. They plan to host a meeting for Kaku later this year. A member of the group loaned two word processors to assist the work of the delegation.

Curtis supporters from Canada, France, Sweden, and Britain, as well as from the United States, comprise the Mark Curtis Defense Committee's delegation, which will



Militant/Margrethe Siem
Kate Kaku, Curtis' wife, is heading an international team of Curtis defense supporters in presenting the imprisoned U.S. unionist's case to the UN Commission on Human Rights. His case is getting a sympathetic response from many delegates, she reports.

soon be strengthened by the arrival of Eddie Carthan, a prominent Curtis supporter and a former Amnesty International "Prisoner of Conscience." Carthan, who was the first Black mayor of Tchula, Mississippi, was convicted of frame-up charges, including murder, in an effort by opponents to get him out of office. He spent time in state and federal prisons and was released after a public defense campaign on his behalf.

S. Africans protest visit by British cricket team

BY PETE EVANS

LONDON — Under pressure from the mounting anti-apartheid struggle, the South African government announced February 13 that it was cutting short the tour of an English cricket team. The team's visit to South Africa, led by former England cricket captain Mike Gatting, was the latest attempt to break the international sports boycott of South Africa. Cricket is one of the most popular sports enjoyed by the white population in that country.

The team, branded the "Selfish 16" by antitour campaigners, have been met by protests at every stage of their trip. Three hundred demonstrators, including Winnie Mandela, picketed them on their arrival at Johannesburg's Jan Smuts airport. This protest was attacked by riot police using tear gas and dogs.

On arriving at their luxury hotel they were met by a demonstration of the hotel staff. Three hundred cooks, cleaners, and security guards marched around the hotel foyer, chanting anti-Gatting slogans and carrying placards that read "No service for the rebels" and "No food for the puppets." They then took part in a sit-down protest in a nearby shopping mall. Staff refused to serve the cricketers during their stay in the hotel.

Games protested

Each game during the visit was marked by demonstrations at the grounds and at nearby townships. The games are of three days duration. Forty-five people were arrested and over 30 injured when police attacked demonstrators in the township of Manguang, near Bloemfontein on February 7. After the Bloemfontein match, Gatting was forced to meet the protesters to accept a petition.

In full view of some 500 demonstrators, Gatting met John Seganetco, whose back had

been peppered with shotgun pellets on his way home from a demonstration outside the stadium. "Mike Gatting, this is what your presence has led to. If this tour was not here, our people would not have been shot. This message is the voice of the people. Go away," he was told.

Gatting was later reported to have described the protests as "just some people singing and dancing."

South Africa's isolation from international cricket began in 1968 when Basil D'Oliviera, who was born in South Africa, was chosen to tour with the England team for a test series in South Africa. (A "test series" is the highest level of international cricket.) D'Oliviera is classified as "Coloured" under apartheid's racial laws and was refused a visa. An uproar followed, and the test series was canceled. In the face of a mounting campaign, all the major national cricket federations broke off links with South Africa.

Many attempts have been made since to organize unofficial international tours. Large amounts of money have been offered to cricketers, often as they near the end of their careers, if they will break the boycott.

These efforts have stepped up in recent years as the South African authorities claimed they had reformed apartheid and desegregated cricket. A team from the West Indies agreed to tour in 1980. Part of the conditions of the tour was that the players be classed as "honorary whites" by the authorities. However, in a widely publicized incident, one of the tourists, Colin Croft, was thrown out of a "whites only" railway carriage.

As the news of the recent protests against Gatting's team came out, opinion in Britain moved sharply against the cricketers. Most of the press called for the return of the team to Britain.

Testimony decries U.S. army attacks on Panama Indians

GENEVA, Switzerland — Crispulo Igualikinya, a Panamanian Indian, commanded the attention of the delegates to the 46th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights when he spoke. On behalf of the International Indian Treaty Council, he sharply condemned the U.S. invasion of his country.

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"In this action by the mightiest army in the world," he said, "thousands of Panamanians were cut down and the Red Cross was prevented from assisting the wounded. Fire fighters were prevented from working to extinguish the flames that consumed the houses of the poor in Chorrillo, fires resulting from the constant bombardment of this neighborhood" in Panama City.

"Our only crime," he continued, and the reason for the invasion, "is that we lived where the interoceanic canal is located and near the U.S. military bases, which are to be dismantled by December 1999."

Igualikinya then described the attacks and harassment inflicted by the invading forces on the Kunas and Guaymi Indians living in Panama. Several Kunas were arrested, and 10 were killed. Villages were invaded by heavily armed troops and six are still occupied.

On December 25 U.S. troops surrounded and then occupied the offices of the Congress of Indian Organizations of Central America, Mexico, and Panama. They destroyed equipment and files, and stole \$2,000.

Igualikinya concluded by demanding that the U.S. government immediately give back the material and money the troops had seized from the Indian organization; that it pay compensation for damages; and that U.S. troops be withdrawn from the country. He asked that the UN commission send a special delegation "including Indians from the United States" to visit Panama and oversee improvements in the current situation of the Indian peoples there.

— A.B. and M.P.

Rallies in South, Midwest signal gains for Curtis

Mark Curtis is a unionist and political activist from Des Moines, Iowa, who is serving a 25-year prison term in the state penitentiary in Anamosa on frame-up charges of rape and burglary.

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee is leading an international campaign to fight for justice for Curtis. For more information

"When you talk about Central America, you talk about Mark Curtis; when you talk about unions, about women's rights, you talk about Mark Curtis," said Rev. Emory Searcy, a national leader of Clergy and Laity Concerned, who announced his organization's support for Curtis' fight. Linda Riggins, Service Employees International

that raised more than \$200.

DES MOINES, Iowa — Eddie Carthan, the first Black mayor of Tchula, Mississippi, was the featured speaker at a rally of more than 90 people here. The event was also a premier showing here of the video *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*.

"People are rising up all over the world, not willing to be second-class citizens any longer," Carthan said. "Mark Curtis represents all who are fighting injustice."

Merle Hansen, the president of the North American Farm Alliance, spoke of the increasing support won for Curtis' fight and why Curtis was framed.

Other speakers included Alfredo Alvarez, the former chairperson of

the Des Moines Human Rights Commission; Imam Ako Abdul-Samad, an activist in Des Moines' Black community; Gil Sierra, a former Davenport, Iowa, alderman and a board member of the Iowa Civil Liberties Union; meat-packer and unionist Johnny McGraw; Xa Lor, a sister of one of two 13-year-old Hmong boys killed by police in Inver Grove Heights, Minnesota; and John Studer, the coordinator of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee. Curtis supporter Edna Griffin, a longtime activist in Des Moines' Black community, co-chaired the meeting.

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Anti-war activist Beth Seberger opened a January 6 Curtis support rally here

at St. Mark's Church. Curtis' case could "bring us all together," she said, noting the diversity of the people in attendance.

Jan Behrand, a political activist and a cousin of Curtis, spoke on behalf of defense committee activists here. Curtis and Behrand's grandmother encouraged family members to "go out there and fight injustice everywhere," he said. She has described Curtis' struggle to remain politically active in prison and how others could help.

Other speakers included Bill Clause, the first vice-president of the Kansas City local of the American Federation of Government Employees, and Paco Sanchez, a member of the United Auto Workers, who spoke on behalf of the Socialist Workers Party.

The meeting also included a video showing of *The Frame-Up of Mark Curtis*.

DEFEND MARK CURTIS!

about the case or how you can help, write to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311; telephone (515) 246-1695.

If you have news or reports on activities in support of Mark Curtis from your city or country, please send them to the *Militant*.

Meetings and rallies organized to win support for Mark Curtis' fight for justice are taking place across the United States. Since the end of January, supporters organized events in Birmingham, Alabama, and Atlanta to mark the conclusion of Kate Kaku's four-week tour through the South. Kaku is a leader of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee and is Curtis' wife. Events were also organized in Des Moines, Iowa; Kansas City, Missouri; and Miami. Below are reports of the highlights of these meetings.

ATLANTA — "Mark Curtis was fighting in the spirit of our leaders who said, 'Ain't gonna let nobody turn us around,'" said Rev. Isaiah Madison at a January 27 rally here. "He was fighting in the spirit of the meat-packers' union, the immigrant workers, and small farmers fighting foreclosure." Madison represented the Southern Christian Leadership Conference at the event held in Freedom Hall of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Center for Nonviolent Social Change.

Union Local 679 president and a leader of Justice for Janitors, read a poem she had written for Curtis.

Kate Kaku reported the accomplishments of her tour through the South.

Virginia O'Reilly, a Curtis supporter and member of the Socialist Workers Party, announced the party's recent court victory against the Workers League, an antilabor outfit that has engaged in a smear and disruption effort against Curtis and his defense effort.

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. — Some 50 people here heard a panel at St. Andrew's Church speak in defense of Mark Curtis. "I will persist in doing whatever I can to achieve justice for Mark Curtis," said Rev. James Tuohy.

"We need to understand that this could have happened to any one of us," said John Zippert, the co-publisher of the *Greene County Democrat*. "What happened to Mark is more the rule than the exception. There is a powerful force fighting those who want to change society."

Michele Wilson, the action vice-president of the Alabama National Organization for Women; Jane Christian, a peace and justice activist; and youth activist Bobby Singleton spoke.

Colonel Stone Johnson, a longtime civil rights activist, co-chaired the meeting with Curtis supporter Joan Levitt and made a fund appeal



Militant/Tom O'Brien

ST. PAUL, Minn. — Some 80 people attended February 3 meeting for Mark Curtis here at Camphor United Methodist Church. Xa Lor (above) spoke about her brother's killing at the hands of police. "I believe the police are also lying in the case of Mark Curtis," she said. Xa Lor, a Hmong immigrant, also spoke at Curtis rally in Des Moines, Iowa, January 27.

MIAMI — More than 40 people attended a February 3 "Evening in solidarity with Mark Curtis" here.

"The Mark Curtis case shows how efficiently the police and criminal justice system can support the meat-packing industry owners, pick a scapegoat to address feminist concerns about rape, and prosecute a person whose political philosophies diverge sharply from the status quo," said Chris Kirchner, a teacher at Miami Jackson High School. Other speakers included Penny Gardener, president of the Dade County National Organization for Women; Lavarice Gaudin of Veye-Yo, a Haitian rights organization; and a representative of the Young Socialist Alliance.

Liz Ziers from Atlanta; Gail Skidmore from Birmingham, Alabama; Sandra Nelson from Des Moines, Iowa; Jill Fein from Miami; Tom O'Brien from St. Paul, Minnesota; and Gary Stonelake from Kansas City, Missouri, contributed to this week's column.

Prison officials to review charges against Curtis

BY PRISCILLA SCHENK

DES MOINES, Iowa — In a letter to his defense committee February 12, Mark Curtis reported that false charges of gambling and disruptive conduct leveled against him will be reviewed a second time by prison authorities. Political activist Curtis is serving a 25-year sentence on a frame-up conviction of rape and burglary. His continuing political activity at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa has led to this new attempt by prison authorities to victimize him.

On February 1 Curtis was found guilty by

prison officials of gambling on a Super Bowl football game. This disciplinary "major report," if upheld, carries penalties of a lock-up for two weekends, loss of two good-conduct days, and loss of many privileges, including use of a phone and typewriter.

According to Curtis, the frame-up rests on the testimony of a guard who wrote in a disciplinary notice to Curtis that he saw Curtis drop a piece of paper with the word "Super Bowl" written on it, then saw another inmate pick it up. According to the notice, that inmate "did not know what it was, he just picked it

up." Curtis was told by the inmate that he said the paper belonged to "a white guy."

Curtis has appealed to the warden to overturn the disciplinary report. In his appeal, Curtis explained the facts and stated, "I had no real interest in the outcome [of the Super Bowl game]. I did not bet so much as a pop token on the game. . . . This can be verified by the men who gave witness as to my character."

Curtis expected a quick ruling on his appeal. However, on February 12 he received

a memo from Assistant Warden John Sissel, who wrote, "I am asking that the committee reinstate a re-review of the questions that I bring to their attention. This may or may not require your appearance before the committee, but it does delay the appeal response."

Four members of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Organization, an inmate's group, had volunteered to testify on Curtis' behalf. Only two were called before the authorities' hearing committee. However, since submitting his appeal, Curtis reported that "one of my witnesses who had previously spoken to the committee was brought back up there on February 9 for more questions. They grilled him on his association with me and our connection via the MLK Organization. They also called up two witnesses who had not been allowed to testify previously. These men were also asked about their connection with the MLK Organization. Both are board members for the group. The assistant warden was present for these meetings."

Meanwhile, Curtis' supporters are sending protest messages to the warden. Sandra Nelson, steering committee member of the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, said, "copies of dozens of messages have been received in the defense office here. What is needed now is to step up the protests to let the warden know that Mark's supporters around the world are watching and will not allow him to be victimized and unjustly punished for his political ideas and activities."

Send protests to John A. Thalacker, Warden, Iowa State Men's Reformatory, Anamosa, Iowa 52205, with a copy to Paul Grossheim, Director, Department of Corrections, Capitol Annex, 523 E 12th, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. Please send a copy and any response received from Iowa officials to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

Warschawsky appeals conviction, sentence

BY HARRY RING

Israel's supreme court devoted a six-hour session on February 8 to hearing arguments on the appeal of Michel Warschawsky. A partisan of the Palestine liberation struggle, he has been sentenced to 20 months in prison on trumped-up charges.

In a telephone interview from Jerusalem, Warschawsky, who is free on bail, said the amount of time the high court devoted to hearing arguments in the case was unprecedented. And, he added, the proceedings indicated that the judges "took our arguments seriously." His appeal focused on two points — the conviction itself and the severity of the sentence.

Until his arrest, Warschawsky was director of the Alternative Information Centre, which has spotlighted Israeli abuses of Palestinian rights.

Warschawsky, and the Centre, were convicted of providing typesetting services to an illegal organization and holding material of such an organization. The printed material consisted of a booklet that included guidelines for Palestinians subjected to interroga-

Rights activist helped spotlight Israeli abuses of Palestinians.

tion and torture by Israel's secret police.

The prosecution attributed the booklet to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which is banned by Israel. Warschawsky denied any knowledge that this was the fact. He refused to give authorities the name of the person for whom the typesetting was done. To do so, he declared, would violate long-held personal principles.

The Alternative Information Centre was fined \$5,000, a substantial sum for such an organization.

Warschawsky was given a 30-month prison term, with 10 months suspended. The remaining 20 months must be served in full, with the customary time off for good behavior denied in advance.

At the supreme court hearing, his attorneys argued the conviction should be reversed, and

if it is not, that his sentence be reduced.

The prosecutor argued that Warschawsky's political views were very relevant to the case against him. Given his political background, it was asserted, Warschawsky must have known who was behind the pamphlet and, therefore, had "deliberately closed his eyes" to this.

There is no timetable for when the supreme court decision will be handed down, but it is expected within a few months.

Warschawsky's victimization has evoked significant protest in Israel and abroad. In the United States protests have been made by many individuals and several organizations. Among these are the Committee to Protect Journalists, headed by Walter Cronkite, and the American-Israeli Civil Liberties Coalition.

Continuing protests are needed and should be sent to Ambassador Moshe Arad, Embassy of Israel, 3524 International Dr. NW, Washington, D.C. 20008.

Copies should be sent to Alternative Information Centre, P.O. Box 24278, Jerusalem, Israel.

Curtis appeals to UN for aid in fight to overturn frame-up

On February 6 an international delegation headed by Kate Kaku, the wife of Mark Curtis, arrived in Geneva, Switzerland, for the 46th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, launching a long-term campaign by the Mark Curtis Defense Committee to bring Curtis' fight for justice before the international body.

The commission is composed of delegations from 43 countries and observers from another 80. Many nongovernmental organizations, such as Amnesty International, aid the commission in its work by investigating and reporting on human rights abuses and working to get such cases placed on the commission's agenda. The 46th session began on January 29 and continues through March 9.

Curtis, a Des Moines, Iowa, unionist and political activist, is currently serving a 25-year jail term at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa on a frame-up conviction for rape and burglary.

Below is the text of a letter sent by Curtis on February 1 to UN Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar and Jan Martenson, the director of the Center for Human Rights at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. It is Curtis' appeal to the international body for help in overturning the frame-up against him. Copies are available from the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

* * *

Dear Mr. Secretary-General,

My name is Mark Curtis. I am 31 years old and am a meat-packing worker from Des Moines, Iowa. For 12 years I have been involved in the union movement, civil rights protests, and other political activities. I am also a member of the Socialist Workers Party and served as national chairman of the Young Socialist Alliance.

I am writing from the Iowa State Men's Reformatory, which is a state prison in Anamosa, Iowa. In September 1988 I was convicted of rape and burglary, and in November 1988 was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

But it is not because of these alleged crimes that I am in prison, since I have committed no rape or burglary. It is my labor union and political activities that motivated the police, prosecutors, and courts to send me to jail on false charges. For this reason, I am requesting your help in overturning this frame-up, which is an affront to the principles of both the Bill of Rights in the U.S. Constitution and of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. I hope that you can bring my case to the attention of the United Nations Commission

on Human Rights.

I was arrested on March 4, 1988. At the time, I was a worker at the Swift Independent Packing Co., a beef slaughterhouse, and a member of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431. My job was pulling paunches, that is cutting out stomachs to be processed as tripe. Like most jobs on the kill floor, this was a hot, physically difficult, and dangerous job. I had previously been fired for leaving work to see a doctor after pulling muscles in my back and had to fight to get my job back, which I did with the help of my coworkers and union representatives.

Human toll in meat-packing

Workers at Swift, like all packinghouse workers in the United States, were suffering particularly severe attacks by the meat-packing companies on our wages, benefits, and working conditions. The horrible human toll of these attacks, including the extraordinary rate of injuries we have suffered over the past decade, is well documented.

The meat-packing companies are attempting to use the divisions between workers of different languages, nationalities, and skin colors to pit us against one another and therefore weaken our unions.

Three days before my arrest, the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service police conducted a raid at the Swift plant in Des Moines where I worked. With the company's help, the INS arrested 16 Mexican workers and one Salvadoran worker and charged them with using false documents to violate U.S. immigration laws. These arrests were a flagrant violation of the amnesty program mandated by the U.S. Congress and then in effect. Many of those seized in the raid had applied for legal status under this program.

Blow to the union

Many workers, including myself, saw this as an attack on the human rights of these workers, who had done nothing wrong other than seek a living for themselves and their families. We also saw it as an attack on the whole work force and a serious blow to bringing Spanish-speaking workers into the union.

As a worker and union member who speaks both English and Spanish, I was in the center of the fight to defend these victimized workers. On the day of my arrest, March 4, 1988, a walkout was staged by some of the workers on the kill floor to protest an attempt by the company to prevent us from attending a meeting to discuss how to defend our 17 coworkers. After work I, along with other workers, did attend that meeting, where a protest demonstration was planned for the following week. At the meeting I spoke, in Spanish, about the need to reach out to bring the union at Swift into this defense effort, as well as other workers and unionists in Iowa and around the country.

After the meeting, my coworkers and I went to Los Compadres, a tavern near the slaughterhouse, to discuss the upcoming demonstration. I then left the bar and returned home. My plan was to buy some items and prepare for a dinner and a public meeting I was responsible for organizing the next night featuring North Americans who had recently returned from Nicaragua.

But between my home and the grocery store, I was hailed by a young Black woman who pleaded for a ride to her home, claiming she was being pursued by a man. I gave her a ride and waited on the porch of the house she directed me to while she said she was going inside to make sure she was safe.

Moments after she went inside, police officers appeared, grabbed me, and brought me inside the house. One of them handcuffed me and pulled my pants partly down. I was taken to jail and charged with rape.

Beating in jail

Once in the jail, the police began an interrogation of me. When I refused to answer any questions without a lawyer, they began to insult me and called me a "Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds." (The month before my arrest, I had been involved in protests in a suburb of Des Moines against



Militant/Stu Singer

Des Moines police arrested Curtis March 4, 1988, the same day he had been involved in discussions to organize protests in defense of 17 Latino coworkers picked up in an immigration raid. Cops who beat Curtis in jail called him a "Mexican-lover, just like you love those coloreds." Curtis says this was violation of Eighth Amendment barring "cruel and unusual punishment."

leaflets distributed by the racist police department there calling on residents to phone the police "if you see a Black male in your neighborhood at night.")

Although I was handcuffed and stripped of my clothes, the police grabbed me, threw me to the floor, and beat me with billy clubs. The beating was so bad that I had to be taken to the hospital and given 15 stitches to my left eye. Hospital X-rays later showed that I had a fractured cheekbone. I was forced to spend the night in a bare jail cell with no clothes, until friends, my wife, and other family members bailed me out the next afternoon.

At my trial six months later, I faced charges of sexual abuse in the third degree, and burglary in the first degree.

Principal accusers were cops

My principal accusers were police officers who testified in court that they arrested me in the middle of a crime. The court denied me access to the records of the officers. I had discovered from past issues of the Des Moines daily paper that one of the arresting officers had been suspended from the force and placed on probation for a year for making false statements concerning a defendant in another case. The judge denied my attorney's efforts to bring this fact to the jury's attention.

In addition, testimony was given by a young Black woman and her brother, people I had never seen until depositions before the trial. This woman, who testified that I had assaulted her, was not the woman who asked me for a ride on the night of March 4, 1988.

I took the stand in my own defense to explain the true events, just as I have done in this letter to you. I proved that at the time the young woman testified she was attacked, I was in Los Compadres tavern with dozens of coworkers discussing the events at work. A fellow Swift worker testified that he was with me in the tavern at the time. My neighbors also supported this with their testimony as to my whereabouts before leaving for the grocery store. The state's own forensics expert testified that there was no physical evidence of any kind linking me to the young woman or to any crime.

My defense was seriously hampered by the character of the trial and actions by the judge. Of the 12 members on the jury that heard my case, only two were workers. The only Hispanic juror was excused in the midst of the trial itself without valid reason; the remainder of the jurors were all white.

One juror signed an affidavit after my conviction stating she was convinced of my innocence. She stated she was pressured to change her vote to guilty only because the jury was not given instructions that failure to reach a unanimous verdict would mean that I would get a new trial. She said several other jurors felt as she did.

Key evidence barred

Key evidence was excluded by the judge from the jury's considerations. My attorney was barred from putting in the court record the fact that the arresting officer had been suspended and put on probation for making false statements against a defendant.

I was not allowed to bring to the jury's attention U.S. government files showing that I had been a target of spying by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation because of my activity in the Committee in Solidarity with the People of El Salvador. The judge upheld a motion by the prosecutor to exclude this fact from the trial record.

I was also not allowed to present evidence about the brutal beating I received at the hands of the police. (Following my conviction, I filed a federal civil rights suit against the City of Des Moines and the police officers involved in the beating and have attached a copy of it for your consideration.)

Other serious obstructions of my defense also occurred. These are included in my motion appealing the conviction, which I am including with this letter.

Campaign of vilification

City officials organized a publicity campaign to vilify me, denying me the right to the presumption of innocence. Before my trial even took place, there were calls for my conviction by the *Des Moines Register*, the major newspaper in the city and the state of Iowa. The mayor of the city, in answer to queries by union leaders, stated flatly that I was guilty as charged and attempted to blunt any criticism of the police actions in my frame-up.

From the day after my arrest, and after my conviction as well, thousands of workers, farmers, students, civil liberties activists, Black and Hispanic rights fighters, and others have come to my defense. My frame-up is part of a broader pattern of attacks on democratic rights. Those who jailed me would like to hold up my imprisonment as an example to those who fight for justice and the rights of working people. In this sense, my case has a lot in common with that of Native American activist Leonard Peltier and of another frame-up victim, Johnny "Imani" Harris, who is in prison in Alabama.

The Constitution of the United States, in its first 10 amendments called the Bill of Rights, guarantees basic rights that were denied to me in this frame-up. The First Amendment guarantees the freedom of speech and association, which were violated because of my political beliefs, union activity, and support for the rights of immigrants.

The Sixth Amendment calls for "an impartial jury," which could only mean a jury of one's peers, which I did not have.

'Cruel and unusual punishment'

And the Eighth Amendment requires that "cruel and unusual punishment" will not be imposed. In fact, my beating while in police custody constituted exactly this kind of punishment.

In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 2 states that all are entitled to rights and freedoms set forth in the declaration without distinction to "political or other opinion." The campaign against me targeted me in particular because of my political ideas and activities.

Like the Eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, Article 5 prohibits "cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment."

Continued on Page 13

Curtis defense makes urgent appeal to raise \$20,000 for UN effort

The Mark Curtis Defense Committee has launched a special fund appeal to raise \$20,000 to finance the work of an international delegation that is now in Geneva, Switzerland, for the 46th session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

The delegation is headed by Kate Kaku, Curtis' wife, who is accompanied by leaders of the defense committee from the United States and supporters from Canada, Britain, and France. They are in Geneva launching a long-term effort to bring Curtis' fight for justice before the UN.

So far \$12,550 in contributions have been raised to make this project possible. Your financial help is urgently needed to back up this effort. Tax deductible contributions can be made payable to the Political Rights Defense Fund, Inc., and should be sent to the Mark Curtis Defense Committee, P.O. Box 1048, Des Moines, Iowa 50311.

'The light at the end of the tunnel ain't a train'

Some 8,500 International Association of Machinists (IAM) members struck Eastern Airlines March 4 in an effort to block the company's drive to break the union and impose massive concessions on workers.

As of the *Militant's* closing news date, Wednesday, February 14, the strike was in its 348th day.

The Machinists' walkout remains solid and has gained new

tunnel, and it ain't a train coming at us," said striker Bob Stellato, speaking to the February 3 meeting of IAM Local 2228 in Sunnyvale, California. Local 2228 is one of seven lodges making up IAM District 508 at Lockheed Missiles and Space Company in the Bay Area.

The 50 electronics workers at the meeting gave the striker an enthusiastic response. Lockheed has demanded big takebacks in national

ers that March 4 will mark one year on the picket line for Eastern strikers and invited everyone to join the solidarity march and rally scheduled for San Francisco International Airport on March 3. Local 2228 officials posted leaflets for the March 3 action on union bulletin boards in the Lockheed plant.

The February 9 IAM District 100 strike bulletin carried further news of the growing international support for the Eastern strikers' fight — this time from far-away Fiji.

Throughout the strike, the bulletin notes, "the IAM has received solidarity and support from many unions in the United States and abroad, including from Europe and other major industrialized countries. It is particularly heartening, however, to receive such support from regions of the world that are far removed from our struggle. Such was the case today when we received a letter of support from the Fiji Public Service Association."

"We fully support you in your struggle and call on the United States administration to do justice to the Eastern Airlines workers," wrote the association's general secretary to IAM General Vice-president John Peterpaul. "After all, it makes little sense for President Bush to extol Solidarity in Poland while turning a

blind eye to the injustices perpetrated on the American workers by a devious employer like Frank Lorenzo."

The Fiji union also sent Bush the same message, the strike bulletin noted.

Fiji is a country of more than 330 islands in the southwestern Pacific Ocean, about 1,960 miles from Sydney, Australia. Its population is 800,000.

the local urges. "Help us make an example of Lorenzo. Send a message to other airline owners: You can't bust our unions without a fight — a fight you'll wish you hadn't started."

"If we win at Eastern, you win. And so will your kids and ours, and everyone else who wants to keep the airlines union."

Strikers at New York's La Guardia Airport, who are members of IAM Local 1018, report that their new strike information table, located inside the terminal is a big hit.

"At the table we are able to talk to Eastern passengers as well as airport workers and others. The vast majority of people we talk to support us and many give us words of encouragement and donations," explains the local's newsletter. Recently Continental workers have stopped by the table and made contributions.

"Even scabs have come by and told us they are leaving the 'new Eastern' and told us we are beating Lorenzo," the newsletter notes. More than \$900 has been raised at the table since strikers began setting it up in late December.

Peter Anastos from San Francisco contributed to this column.



SUPPORT EASTERN STRIKERS!

momentum in recent months. Meanwhile, Eastern's plan to rebuild as a nonunion carrier is faltering, hammered by blows from the strike and stepped-up competition in the airline industry.

The Eastern workers' fight has won broad support from working people in the United States, Puerto Rico and the Caribbean, Canada, Sweden, and elsewhere in the world. Readers — especially Eastern strikers — are encouraged to send news of strike solidarity activities to this column.

"There's a light at the end of the

contract talks with the IAM, including health benefit cuts, a wage freeze in the lower labor grades, and other union-weakening measures. Voting on the contract is scheduled for February 18, and many workers came to the meeting to discuss the union's preparations for a strike.

"We faced many of the same things you all are faced with now," Stellato said, referring to the \$150 million in concessions Lorenzo demanded from the IAM at Eastern. "There comes a time when you just have to take a stand, and then be prepared to stick it out to the end."

He reminded the Lockheed work-

'March forth on March 4,' Eastern strikers urge

Continued from front page
unmistakeable message: *Lorenzoism will not be tolerated!*

"Lorenzo's grand scheme to operate a Scab Airline is coming apart at the seams," the strike leaflet continues. "One year after Lorenzo forced us to strike, 96 percent of the Machinists union members are still on strike."

"We call on all working people, union and nonunion, all civic groups, churches, families, men, women, children — all who care about justice and safety — to join with us on March 4. Yes, even those who have crossed our picket lines. It is time for you to get off that sinking ship and unite with the winners of this battle," says the strikers' appeal.

Shuttle buses to the airport terminal will begin leaving Local 702's headquarters at 691 Sheridan Drive at 2:00 p.m.

Plans are also moving ahead for the March 4 labor solidarity day at Piedmont Triad International Airport in Greensboro, North Carolina. Several thousand flyers have already been distributed inviting strike supporters to come to the airport between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m., and a mailing to area unions and labor bodies has been sent out. "We are closing in on Lorenzo and his scab operation and we appreciate your help," the strikers' leaflet says.

Several Eastern strikers and supporters are planning a trip to Camp Solidarity, the Pittston miners' strike center in Carterton, Virginia, on February 15 to invite the miners to participate in the March 4 event and show solidarity with the miners' fight.

Two hundred members of Teamsters Local 391 gave Greensboro strike coordinator Richard Lefteris a standing ovation when he spoke to their meeting February 11. The Teamsters pledged to participate in the March 4 picket line. Lefteris was introduced by Local 391 President R.V. Durham, who is also an international vice-president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

The same day, IAM Local 2444, which represents workers at the big USAir maintenance base in nearby Winston-Salem, voted to participate in the anniversary action and contributed \$5,000 to the Eastern strikers.

Two students at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro whose fathers are Eastern strikers are pitching in to build the March 4 action there, along with other strike supporters.

Strikers in Louisville, Kentucky, are asking supporters to join the airport picket line March 3 from 12 noon to 2:00 p.m. The expanded picketing has the backing of the Greater Louisville Central Labor Council's



Militant/Pat Hunt

March 4 actions are part of Eastern strikers' stepped-up activities. When President Bush visited Miami January 19, 75 strikers were on hand, with other protesters, to greet him.

Fairness for Eastern Employees Committee, along with the Campus Coalition for Labor Justice at the University of Louisville. The eight IAM strikers in Louisville picket five days a week at flight times.

In Boston the Massachusetts State AFL-CIO, Boston Building Trades Council, and North Shore Labor Council are sponsoring a 1:00 p.m. rally at the city's Logan Airport March 4. Strikers in Boston are planning a week of expanded activities before the rally.

In Pittsburgh strikers are planning a March 4 walk-through the airport from 1:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. A leaflet for the action is out and strike activists are contacting IAM and United Mine Workers of America locals in the Pittsburgh area about participating. UMW members there — as around the country — have been solid supporters of the Eastern strikers.

Five Eastern strikers attended a United Steelworkers of America Legislative Conference on February 5-7 in Hershey, Pennsylvania, where they received many invitations to speak at USWA locals in the state. The 42 strikers in Pittsburgh are members of IAM Local 1044.

Buffalo, New York, strike coordinator Tom Pomeroy says strikers there are planning a March 4 party for strikers, their families, and supporters. The event is being held at the United Auto Workers' hall there. UAW Region 9 has been a consistent help to the strikers, Pomeroy notes.

IAM Local 1781 and the San Mateo Cen-

tral Labor Council are sponsoring a March 3 rally at the South Terminal of the San Francisco International Airport, from noon to 1:30 p.m.

In New York strikers in IAM Local 1018 report the program for the March 4 rally at La Guardia Airport is growing as support for the celebration builds.

Ottiwell Simmons, president of the Bermuda Industrial Union, will be flying in from Bermuda to speak at the rally. The BIU recently helped Eastern strikers win an important victory when their eight-month-long boycott of Eastern's flights — which had originated from La Guardia — finally forced Eastern to pull out of Bermuda at the end of January.

Other speakers at the La Guardia event will include New York State AFL-CIO President Ed Cleary; Dennis Rivera, president of Health Care and Hospital Employees Local 1199; Jay Mazur, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union; IAM District 100 General Chairman Leroy Washington; Teamsters Local 237 President Barry Feinstein; and many other union leaders. Entertainment will be provided by Lifeline, an all-women rock band, and folksinger Tom Juravich.

The rally, which starts at noon, is being held in the parking lot in front of the Continental Airlines hangar.

Local 1018 is also organizing the second of its biweekly expanded solidarity picket lines on February 17, at La Guardia's Central Terminal, starting at noon.

Anniversary strike actions are also planned for March 4 in St. Louis, for March 3 in Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Washington, D.C., and for March 2 in Detroit.

Efforts by striking Eastern ramp workers, cleaners, mechanics, and stock clerks to make March 4 a show of strength are part of a broad expansion of strike activities that the Machinists have organized in recent months as they have pushed ahead and regained the offensive in their battle to defeat Lorenzo. Strikers are getting out — speaking to more union meetings, South Africa freedom struggle protests, and other community events. They are putting out attractive new literature to explain the issues in their fight to other working people. Picket lines in some cities are bigger. Strikers are also waging fights against restrictions on their right to picket and distribute literature — or even wear strike T-shirts. They are countering company, government, and cop attempts to keep them from reaching other workers and passengers at airports.

Eastern safety probe widens

Meanwhile, Eastern's problems continue to deepen.

The *Atlanta Constitution* reported February 8 that a federal grand jury is investigating allegations that Joseph Leonard and Edward Upton may have been involved in aircraft safety shortcuts at Atlanta's Hartsfield International Airport. Leonard is the chief operating officer at Eastern and Upton is the company's vice-president for maintenance and engineering.

The same grand jury is also looking into charges that Upton knew that Eastern managers at Kennedy and La Guardia airports in New York ordered mechanics to bypass safety guidelines and make false entries in logbooks certifying that proper checks on planes had been made.

The criminal investigation is also expected to look into similar charges against Leonard.

And on February 12, Burton Lifland, the judge overseeing Eastern's bankruptcy proceedings, granted Lorenzo an eight-day extension to file with the court its reorganization plan for Eastern to emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Eastern had originally asked for a 60-day extension. Until this — or further — extensions expire, Eastern has the exclusive right to propose how the company should be reorganized. When the "exclusivity" period ends, others — including creditors and stockholders — can file alternative reorganization plans with the court.

Rich Stuart from Greensboro, North Carolina, and Bronson Rozier from Louisville, Kentucky, contributed to this article.

USAir union vote blow to workers

BY LYNN ALLEN

MIAMI — In a major setback for all airline workers, the International Brotherhood of Teamsters (IBT) lost a January 31 election to represent the 8,000 fleet service workers — baggage handlers, ramp agents, and caterers — at USAir. This was the largest private sector representation election since the 1985 defeat of the textile workers' union at Cannon Mills, based in North Carolina.

The vote last month means USAir ramp agents in Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Boston, and Buffalo lose the Teamster representation they have had for many years. Former Pacific Southwest Airlines agents and USAir agents in other cities, who voted for IBT representation in 1988 after a merger of the two airlines, also lose their representation.

When USAir merged with Piedmont Airlines in 1989, the National Mediation Board ordered yet another election for union representation — not just to determine whether the nearly 4,000 former Piedmont workers would win union representation, but opening up the possibility of decertifying the Teamsters altogether.

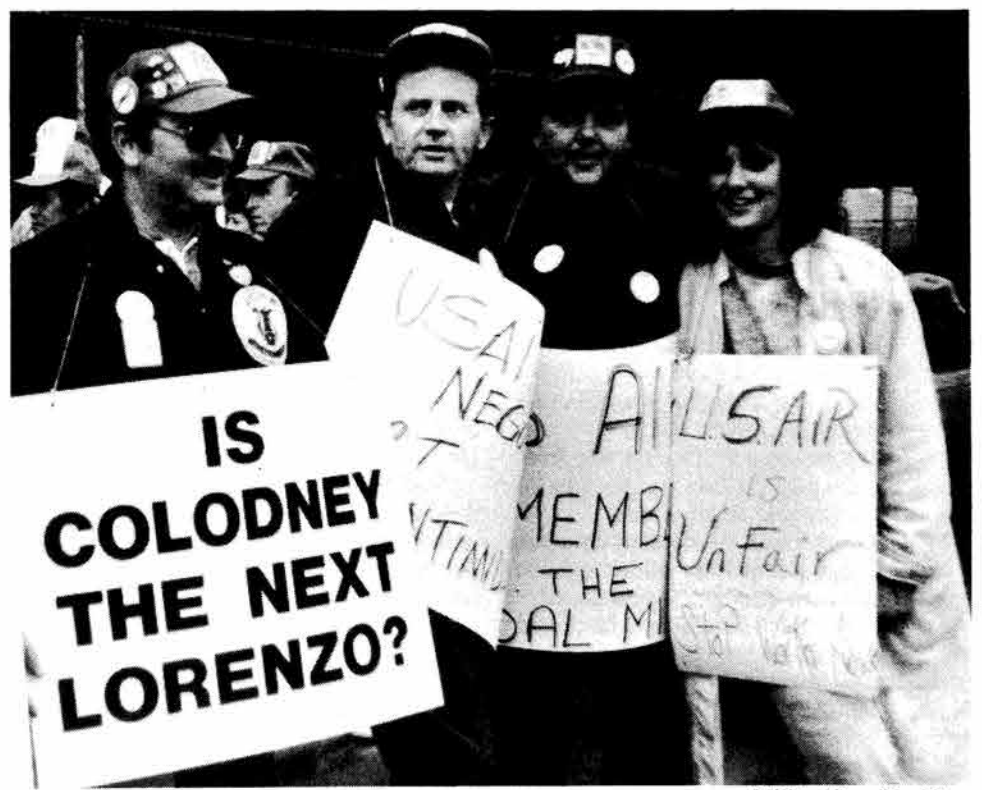
The union's campaign stressed several is-

suces, including elimination of "B" scale wages for new hires, giving part-time employees the right to become full-time, and improvements in retirement options. About 60 percent of the workers who were unionized received "B" scale wages. Many of those employed by Piedmont Airlines before the merger were "part-timers."

Company propaganda

USAir spared no time or expense to influence the election. "Captive audience" meetings were held on company time and on company property where workers had to listen to antiunion propaganda, including video messages from company chairman Edwin Colodny. During the holiday season, when flights were late or canceled due to bad weather, the company blamed Pittsburgh Teamsters union members for losing luggage.

The union, however, was denied access to employee mailing lists and to ready rooms where workers congregate. In some cities union organizers were tailed by management to discourage workers from talking to the union. In some instances, management called the police when union campaigners turned up, even when they remained on public prop-



Philadelphia unionists rally in May protesting USAir firing of Teamster member. Teamsters union was defeated in January election at USAir.

erty. The IBT is demanding an investigation into the election.

Prior to the election the union had unsuccessfully protested to the mediation board and federal courts that the voting regulations

were unfair. Under the provisions of the National Railway Labor Act, which covers airline workers as well, the union must receive over half the number of eligible votes to win an election. Since only 33 percent of those eligible sent their mail-in ballots back, the union automatically lost.

Almost 98 percent of the ballots returned were pro-Teamster. But, the IBT points out on its telephone hotline, "Ballots that are lost, never received, or not returned are counted as antiunion."

'Denied protection'

USAir workers, especially those who had been represented by the IBT, are bitter. One Philadelphia ramp worker said, "The people in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh made this airline what it is, and now we're being denied protection. It's frightening to think what can happen without checks and balances against the company."

Sentiment to reorganize is strong. Some ramp workers wear "No Lorenzo" buttons to symbolize not only their support to the Eastern Airlines strikers, but also to oppose the antiunion drive at USAir. The contract between the International Association of Machinists, which organizes the mechanics and cleaners, and USAir will expire on February 28.

USAir, like other U.S. air carriers, is feeling the effects of the cutthroat competition in the airline industry. It reported a \$102 million loss for the fourth quarter of 1989, losses attributed in part to rising fuel costs and fare wars.

Lynn Allen is a member of International Association of Machinists Local 368 at USAir in Miami.

'Lorenzo's going down,' pickets chant

BY JAN GANGEL AND JOE MOS

LOS ANGELES — "Everybody stick around, Frank Lorenzo's going down!" chanted 125 Eastern Airlines strikers and supporters as they marched in front of the Eastern terminal at Los Angeles International Airport February 10. The strikers were joined by some 30 garment workers now on strike at La Mode Du Golf Co. and Proud Stitch. "Se ve, se siente, la unión está presente!" (We see it, we feel it, the union is present) was intermixed with chants in English.

Charlie Bryan, president of International Association of Machinists District 100 and a national leader of the Eastern strike, made a special trip to Los Angeles to participate in

the demonstration. District 100 represents all Eastern strikers in the United States, Canada, and Puerto Rico.

Fifteen strikers and supporters greeted Bryan at the airport when he arrived the night before. On the picket line, Bryan told the group, "I don't have any magic wand. The only power I have is your power. The importance of your visibility is to let the public know that the strike is stronger than ever."

News of African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela's imminent release ran through the crowd. "Just like Nelson Mandela, who is finally free, we want our freedom," strike leader Eddie Croft told the demonstrators. At the open house following the picket line, strike coordinator Joe Mos told

the crowd how Mandela's victory — after so many years — was an inspiration to the strikers to also keep fighting.

To mark the one-year anniversary of the walkout, the strike committee in Los Angeles plans a mass picket line and rally at the airport Saturday, March 3, from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., to be followed by a solidarity fund-raising barbeque in Westchester Park from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

To build the anniversary events, strikers and supporters are on a stepped-up drive to reach unionists and activists across the city. Strike leader Croft received a standing ovation from 150 members of the United Auto Workers union at McDonnell Douglas aerospace plant at their February union meeting. Hundreds of longshoremen heard striker Bill Richardson at their February union meeting as well. Garment workers, machinists, bakers, postal workers, and oil refinery workers have all invited Eastern strikers to their union meetings to hear about plans for the March 3 "One Year" event.

Jan Gangel and Joe Mos are members of IAM Local 1932 at Los Angeles International Airport (LAX). Mos is the Eastern strike coordinator at LAX and Gangel works at United Airlines.

Judge refuses to drop fines against striking mine union

BY RONI McCANN

Virginia Judge Donald McGlothlin, Jr., of the Russell County Circuit Court in Lebanon ruled February 12 against dropping millions of dollars in fines levied against the United Mine Workers of America.

McGlothlin has assessed the mine union a total of \$64 million in fines for violations of court orders limiting strike activities, and for other charges, during the course of the 10½ month strike by 1,900 UMW members against Pittston Coal Group.

On January 1 representatives of the government, coal company, and the union announced they had reached a tentative agreement in the Pittston strike. Before distributing the contract to the membership, UMW officials said all the fines and lawsuits against the union and its members would have to be dropped.

On January 26 Pittston and the UMW filed a joint motion in McGlothlin's court to have the fines dismissed. McGlothlin then postponed that hearing until February 12. After his February 12 ruling he gave the union and Pittston 10 days to change his mind.

According to the February 14 *Charleston Gazette*, UMW officials are "reassessing" what to do in light of the decision and "trying to decide a future course of action." Union spokesperson John Duray said no decision had been reached about putting the proposed contract up for a vote.

McGlothlin's ruling came three days after the National Labor Relations Board decided to drop all pending lawsuits involving the mine union and Pittston. As part of the agreement, union officials okayed an expansion of a 1987 "broad order" injunction that restricts picket-line activities during a strike.

The 1987 order came out of the 1984-85

UMWA strike against A.T. Massey Coal Co., which the union lost. It covers picket activity in West Virginia, Pennsylvania, and Kentucky. Now the order will be expanded to include Virginia.

California unionists visit Camp Solidarity

BY KATHLEEN DENNY

CARTERTON, Va. — A delegation of eight members of the International Association of Machinists from the San Francisco Bay Area, including a member on strike at Eastern Airlines, spent February 9-12 here at Camp Solidarity.

Air transport workers from United Airlines maintenance base in Burlingame, California, Eastern striker Bob Stellato, and IAM Local 1781 treasurer Ron Kirton made up the Machinists delegation.

Since April 5 some 1,900 members of the United Mine Workers of America have been on strike against Pittston Coal Group. In June strikers set up Camp Solidarity here as a center of Pittston strike support.

Unionists from across the country and internationally, often loaded down with food, money, and donations, have poured into the camp over the months to give their backing to Pittston miners and talk to the strikers firsthand.

At their January union meeting, IAM Local 1781 members watched a video on the Pittston strike. The local then voted to send the delegation to the miners' camp, buy an airline ticket for an Eastern striker, and send a letter with the official seal from the local announcing the delegation.

While in Virginia the IAM members visited striking Pittston miners at six picket shacks and watched videos on the strike at the UMW District 28 headquarters. Best of all they got to talk to miners, their families, and members of the Daughters of Mother Jones strike support group.

"Pittston never knew what to make of the 70,000-80,000 people that came in here," said James "Buzz" Hicks, Camp Solidarity director and a UMW local officer. "They didn't think anyone would care about some miners and their families in southwest Virginia."

Visits important for strike

The picket lines have been thinner since January 1, miners reported. Although fewer, union delegations still come into the camp and miners told the IAM members over and over again how important the visits were for the strike.

"We couldn't have held out without people like you," said Hicks. "When people send money it helps, but what really makes a difference is when people give their time."

Eastern striker Stellato was interested to learn that Pittston had nonunion operations going during the strike and he compared it to what Eastern owner Frank Lorenzo does

with nonunion Continental Airlines. "They're doing the same thing all over the place," he said.

The Eastern strike, unlike the miners' battle, is spread out over every state, commented Hicks. "But if it takes going to California to walk your picket line I'm prepared to go do it, and 90 percent of our members feel the same way."

'I'd like to go back'

On the way home IAM Local 1781 treasurer Kirton said he was very impressed with the solidarity of the strike and all the people. "They're very well organized. I'd like to go back, and I think we should organize a bigger group of people to go back."

United mechanic Tom Fuentes, who is originally from Cuba, was impressed with the unity of the miners and their community.

"At United we have different nationalities, different ages, and we live all over a big city. But we'll need that same kind of pulling together — it'll just be a harder job to do it."

Upon their return IAM Local 1781 members spoke about the trip to their union meeting and raffled off a Pittston strike T-shirt.

Kathleen Denny is a machinist at the UAL maintenance base in Burlingame, California, and a member of IAM Local 1781.

Nelson Mandela wins freedom after 27 years behind bars

Continued from front page
final chapter of our struggle," Mandela said to cheers from the crowd.

"We have waited too long for our freedom," he continued. "Now is the time to intensify the struggle on all fronts."

Mandela reiterated the need to continue economic and political sanctions against South Africa until apartheid is dismantled.

"The factors which necessitated the armed struggle still exist today," he said. Mandela helped found Umkhonto we Sizwe, the armed wing of the ANC, in 1960 "as a purely defensive action against the violence of apartheid."

Police attack rally

For several hours leading up to Mandela's arrival in Cape Town, police repeatedly attacked the crowd. The assault continued during much of the speech.

Millions internationally watched live broadcasts of South African police firing into the crowd with shotguns and tear gas. Three youths were shot dead and more than 100 were wounded by bird shot and rubber bullets.

"The apartheid destruction on our subcontinent is incalculable," Mandela said. "The fabric of family life of millions of my people has been shattered. Millions are homeless and unemployed."

He called on the government to end the state of emergency, free all political prisoners, to "create a climate" for negotiations with the regime.

He additionally demanded an end to the "white monopoly on political power" and called for "universal suffrage on a common voters' roll in a united, democratic, and non-racial South Africa."

On February 13 another mass rally welcomed Mandela home to Soweto, the Black township of 2 million outside Johannesburg. Some 125,000 overfilled the local soccer stadium and gave their leader a tumultuous welcome as he entered the arena. Thousands

more could not get in the stadium.

In his speech, Mandela stressed several of the central themes of the anti-apartheid struggle.

"We believe that apartheid has created a heinous system of exploitation in which a racist minority monopolizes economic wealth while the vast majority of the oppressed and Black people are condemned to poverty."

"It is the labor of Black workers," Mandela said, "that has built the cities, roads, and factories," in South Africa. "They cannot be excluded from sharing in this wealth."

He called for an end to apartheid education — "a crime against humanity" — and said, "Our people need proper houses, not ghettos like Soweto."

Earlier at the Cape Town event he had pointed out that a "fundamental restructuring of our political and economic systems to insure that the inequalities of apartheid are addressed" is needed.

Workers "need a living wage and the right to join unions" and "employers [must] recognize the fundamental rights of workers," he emphasized to the Soweto rally.

"We must clearly demonstrate our good will to our white compatriots and convince them by our conduct . . . that a South Africa without apartheid will be a better home for all," Mandela said.

Mandela then returned to his four-room brick house in the township where he had lived prior to his arrest and jailing in 1962. The house was burned out in 1988 and renovated last year.

Mandela's support for the guiding document of the liberation struggle, the Freedom Charter, and for the continuation of armed struggle unsettled pro-apartheid forces in the country. In a press conference he said the question "of the nationalization of the mines and similar sectors of the community is a fundamental policy of the ANC." These questions are now being openly debated in the country.

SWP leader's message greets release of Nelson Mandela

The following message from Jack Barnes, national secretary of the Socialist Workers Party in the United States, was sent to Oliver Tambo, president of the African National Congress of South Africa, on February 11.

Dear Comrade Tambo,
On behalf of the Socialist Workers Party, I wish to extend our greetings to you, the African National Congress, and the fighting people of South Africa on this momentous occasion when hundreds of millions around the world are celebrating the unbanning of the ANC and the release today of Nelson Mandela.

These events register a historic advance in the decades-long revolutionary struggle to bring down apartheid and establish a democratic, non-racial South Africa. Your victory is shared by revolutionary, progressive, and democratic-minded people everywhere. It has shifted the relationship of forces in favor of those fighting oppression and exploitation the world over.

For all those for whom the struggle is our life, this is both a day of celebration and a time of rededication to the fight for freedom. The scene televised to the world of South African police repeatedly gunning down African youth today in Cape Town as they waited for Comrade Mandela to speak serves as a vivid reminder to all of the daily face of apartheid. It reinforces the importance of our supporting your insistence on releasing all political prisoners and lifting the state of emergency.

We salute the United Democratic Front, the Congress of South African Trade Unions, Umkhonto we Sizwe, the ANC, and all those organizations who have been courageously fighting apartheid. Through

determined mass action, defiance, strikes, and armed resistance, they have forced the regime to retreat. We join Comrade Mandela in saluting the young lions who have been in the front ranks of the battle and will continue to be so in ever-increasing numbers. A new chapter of this struggle has now begun. It can deepen and widen and bring down the hateful apartheid system once and for all.

These advances have led to greater international support for the freedom struggle and isolation of the Pretoria regime. Setbacks suffered by Pretoria, such as the defeat in 1988 of its invasion of Angola at Cuito Cuanavale by Angolan, Cuban, and South West Africa People's Organisation troops, have bolstered the freedom struggle throughout southern Africa. The Namibian people's newly conquered independence is one of the first fruits of Pretoria's weakened condition.

As Nelson Mandela said today in his Cape Town address, "The mass campaigns of defiance and other actions of our organizations and people can only culminate in the establishment of democracy."

The Socialist Workers Party pledges to deepen our efforts to help mobilize working people, farmers, students, and all those in solidarity with the freedom struggle to demand Washington maintain its current sanctions and break all ties with apartheid.

We urge supporters of freedom around the world to redouble their commitment of unstinting solidarity with the ANC in its campaign for the victory of the Freedom Charter, whose eloquent words point toward the elimination of exploitation and oppression from this earth.

Africa will be free!



Afrapix-Impact Visuals/Steve Hilton-Barber
Members of the ANC in Lusaka, Zambia, welcome recently released leaders on a January 15 trip there to consult with exiled movement.

Leaders of the Conservative Party filed charges of treason against Mandela for his Cape Town speech.

Gerrit Viljoen, minister for constitutional affairs in de Klerk's National Party government, said, "I consider the recent election was the last general election in South Africa in which Blacks did not participate," the *New York Times* reported.

The present parliament, he predicted, will approve a new constitution at the end of its five-year term — in 1994.

He called the ANC's goal of nationalizations of major industries "irresponsible and naive." Communism and socialism, he said, have been "discredited worldwide," and it would be "irresponsible" to urge a fallen system on South Africans.

On ABC's "Nightline" program, South Africa's Foreign Minister Roelof Botha said he appealed to all Blacks in the country "to accept my government's commitment that we will eradicate and dismantle apartheid. We do stand ready, together with you, to build a new South Africa."

International celebrations

Around the world thousands poured into the streets, held church celebrations, and victory rallies. Unionists, activists who have campaigned for Mandela's release, church leaders, government officials, students, and others joined in the events and demanded increased sanctions against the apartheid regime.

"There is no point in withdrawing the vital weapon of sanctions," explained Lindiwe Mabuza, chief representative of the ANC in the United States at a February 10 meeting of 800 to celebrate the imminent release of Mandela and the 78th anniversary of the ANC. A protest is also being organized at the South African embassy in Washington, D.C., on February 17.

International protests demand: 'U.S. military forces out of Panama'

Over the past month protesters in a number of countries have condemned the U.S. invasion of Panama and the subsequent military occupation that continues.

- On January 16 the Vancouver and District Labour Council unanimously adopted a motion denouncing the invasion and demanding the immediate withdrawal of U.S. troops and the release of all Panamanian political prisoners held by U.S. forces. The VDLC motion also stated its support for the Canadian Labour Congress demand "that the Canadian government withdraw its support for the U.S. invasion."

- On January 21 the newly formed Committee for the Defense of the Sovereignty and the Self-Determination of the Peoples organized a meeting in solidarity with Panama in Toronto. Some 100 people attended the event.

The featured speaker was Rolando Rivero, consul general of Cuba in Toronto.

- A forum in solidarity with Panama held February 3 in Paris was the first action in France against the invasion. The speakers included Abdiel Blanco, president of SOS Panama; Celia Moreno, head of France Free Panama; Nestor Bidadanure, a representative from Combita, a revolutionary African jour-

Some 3,000 anti-apartheid activists in Toronto rallied outside the ANC offices there. Union officials, ANC leaders, and the mayor of Toronto spoke to the celebration. Celebrations were held in Israel as well.

Actions were held across Britain, including a rally of 5,000 outside the South African embassy in London and 200 in Manchester. Several hundred in Bristol held a torchlight celebration. A national march and rally have been called for March 25.

More than 1,000 people gathered at St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston, 400 rallied at City Hall in New York and 2,000 in Detroit. A rally of 1,200 in Seattle heard the city's mayor declare February 11 "Nelson Mandela Day."

The International Students Congress initiated an action of 1,000 in Oakland, California and 1,200 attended a service at Glide Memorial Church in San Francisco. A demonstration has been called for March 11 by anti-apartheid groups in the area.

Raúl Roa Kouri, the Cuban vice-minister of foreign affairs, speaking at the United Nations Commission on Human Rights meeting in Geneva, said the "odious system" of apartheid "is on the way out" because of the "Black people's struggle guided by the African National Congress."

The Cuban representative called on international bodies to keep up the pressure on the regime "to dismantle the whole legal and repressive body of apartheid."

The Organization of African Unity issued a statement calling Mandela's release "a turning point in the irresistible tide of popular resistance to apartheid."

The OAU called for continuing of sanctions and the "dismantling of apartheid."

In a message to Mandela, the OAU general secretary wrote that the ANC leader has not only "come to symbolize the struggle of the African people for freedom and human dignity but also universal resistance to oppression."

nal published in France; a representative of the pacifist organization Movement Zero; and a supporter of Pathfinder Press.

Moreno and Blanco stated their organizations would be collaborating in a common movement in France against the invasion.

Blanco also addressed a protest meeting on February 6 in Lyons. France Latin America, a solidarity organization, is sponsoring a meeting in Paris on February 15 to protest the U.S. occupation.

- In Detroit, 200 protested U.S. intervention in Central America with a picket and rally January 23 in front of the McNamara Federal Building.

The action called for no U.S. aid to El Salvador, no interference in Nicaragua's elections, and an end to the military occupation of Panama.

- Organized by the Central American Peace Coalition, a speak-out was held January 30 in Pittsburgh to protest the invasion and to demand the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Panama.

Steve Marshall from Pittsburgh, Lea Sherman from Detroit, Nat London from Paris, and Heidi Rose from Toronto contributed to this article.

'Our march to freedom is irreversible'

Nelson Mandela speaks in Cape Town shortly after his release from prison

The following is the full text of Nelson Mandela's speech given to the crowd in Cape Town that welcomed him a few hours after his release February 11 from 27½ years of imprisonment by the apartheid regime.

The text was provided by the African National Congress of South Africa's Observer Mission to the United Nations. Footnotes and subheadings are by the *Militant*.

Amandla! Amandla! i-Africa, mayibuye!
[Power! Power! Africa, let it come back!]

Friends, comrades, and fellow South Africans, I greet you all in the name of peace, democracy, and freedom for all. I stand here before you not as a prophet but as a humble servant of you, the people.

Your tireless and heroic sacrifices have made it possible for me to be here today. I therefore place the remaining years of my life in your hands.

On this day of my release, I extend my sincere and warmest gratitude to the millions of my compatriots and those in every corner of the globe who have campaigned tirelessly for my release.

I extend special greetings to the people of Cape Town, the city which has been my home for three decades. Your mass marches and other forms of struggle have served as a constant source of strength to all political prisoners.

I salute the African National Congress. It has fulfilled our every expectation in its role as leader of the great march to freedom.

I salute our president, Comrade Oliver Tambo, for leading the ANC even under the most difficult circumstances.

I salute the rank-and-file members of the ANC. You have sacrificed life and limb in the pursuit of the noble cause of our struggle.

I salute combatants of Umkhonto we Sizwe [Spear of the Nation], like Solomon Mahlangu¹ and Ashley Kriel, who have paid the ultimate price for the freedom of all South Africans.

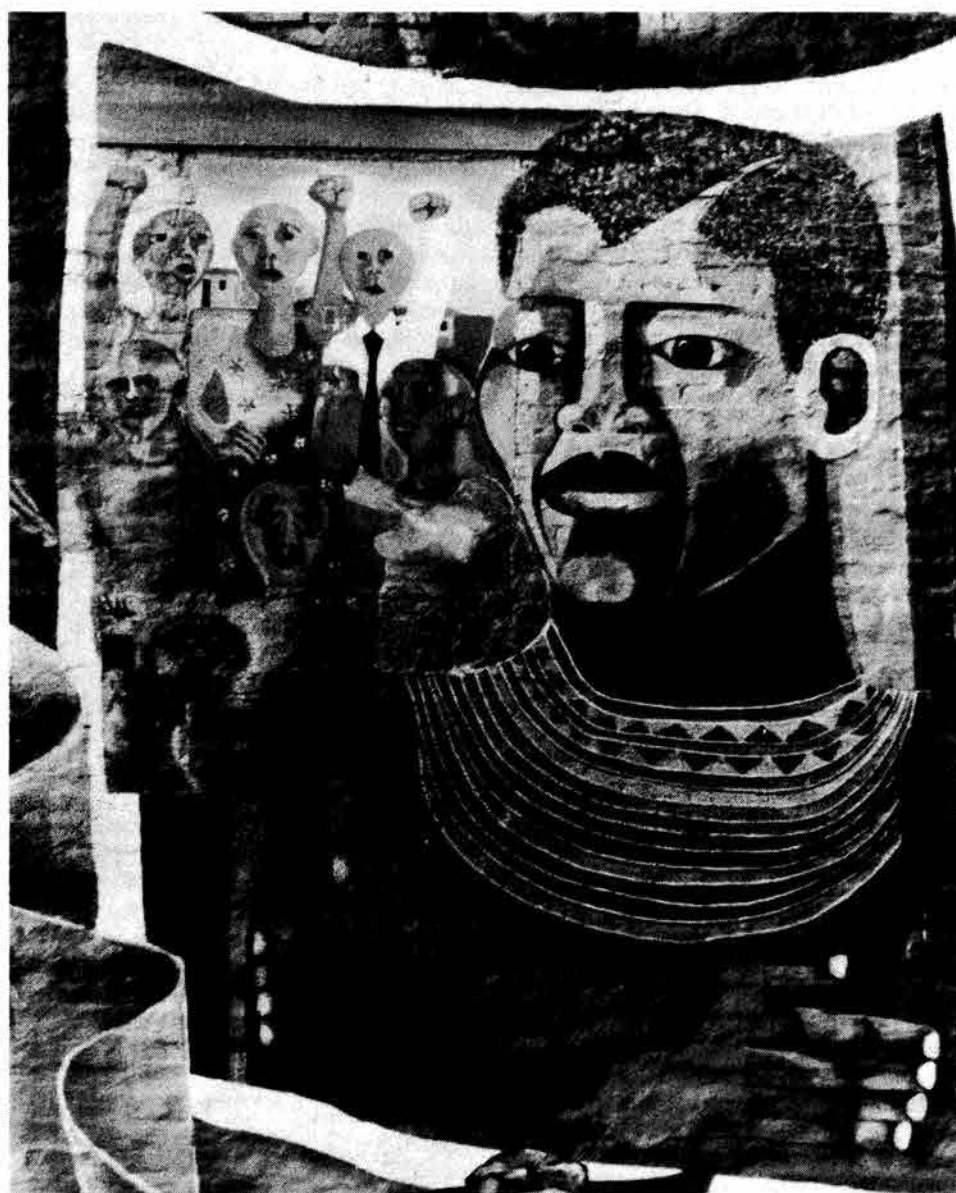
I salute the South African Communist Party for its sterling contribution to the struggle for democracy. You have survived 40 years of unrelenting persecution. The memory of great Communists like Moses Kotane, Yusuf Dadoo, Bram Fischer, and Moses Mabhida will be cherished for generations to come.

I salute General Secretary Joe Slovo, one of our finest patriots. We are heartened by the fact that the alliance between ourselves and the party remains as strong as it always was.

I salute the United Democratic Front, COSATU [Congress of South African Trade Unions], the National Education Crisis Committee, the South African Youth Congress, the Transvaal and Natal Indian congresses and the many other formations of the Mass Democratic Movement.

I also salute the Black Sash and the Na-

1. Solomon Mahlangu was arrested in 1977 for armed ANC activities in South Africa and was executed in April 1979.



Portrait of Nelson Mandela done by exiled South African artist Dumile Feni on the Pathfinder Mural in New York.

tional Union of South African Students. We note with pride that you have acted as the conscience of white South Africans. Even during the darkest days in the history of your struggle, you held the flag of liberty high. The large-scale mass mobilization of the past few years is one of the key factors which led to the opening of the final chapter of our struggle.

Most dependable force

I extend my greetings to the working class of our country. Your organized stance is the pride of our movement. You remain the most dependable force in the struggle to end exploitation and oppression.

I pay tribute to the many religious communities who carried the campaign for justice forward when the organizations of our people were silenced.

I greet the traditional leaders of our country. Many among you continue to walk in the footsteps of great heroes like Hintsa and Sekhukhuni.²

I pay tribute to the endless heroes of youth. You, the young lions. You the young lions have energized our entire struggle.

I pay tribute to the mothers and wives and sisters of our nation. You are the rock-hard foundation of our struggle. Apartheid has inflicted more pain on you than on anyone else. On this occasion, we thank the world community for their great contribution to the anti-apartheid struggle. Without your support our struggle would not have reached this advanced stage.

The sacrifices of the Frontline States will be remembered by South Africans forever.³

My salutations will be incomplete without expressing my deep appreciation for the strength given to me during my long and lonely years in prison by my beloved wife and family. I am convinced that your pain and suffering was far greater than my own.

2. Hintsa, a Gcaleka chief, was killed in 1835 resisting European colonization. Sekhukhuni was a Pedi chief who fought the British in the latter part of the 19th century.

3. The Frontline States, called this because of their proximity to South Africa and their being targets of the apartheid regime's military and other attacks, are Angola, Botswana, Mozambique, Tanzania, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

Before I go any further, I wish to make the point that I intend making only a few preliminary comments at this stage. I will make a more complete statement only after I have had the opportunity to consult with my comrades.

Today the majority of South Africans, black and white, recognize that apartheid has no future. It has to be ended by our own decisive mass actions in order to build peace and security. The mass campaigns of defiance and other actions of our organization and people can only culminate in the establishment of democracy.

The apartheid destruction on our subcontinent is incalculable. The fabric of family life of millions of our people has been shattered. Millions are homeless and unemployed. Our economy lies in ruins and our people are embroiled in political strife.

Armed struggle

Our resort to the armed struggle in 1960 with the formation of the military wing of the ANC, Umkhonto we Sizwe, was a purely defensive action against the violence of apartheid.

The factors which necessitated the armed struggle still exist today. We have no option but to continue. We express the hope that a climate conducive to a negotiated settlement will be created soon so that there may no longer be the need for the armed struggle.

Loyal and disciplined member

I am a loyal and disciplined member of the African National Congress. I am, therefore, in full agreement with all of its objectives, strategies, and tactics.

The need to unite the people of our country is as important a task now as it always has been. No individual leader is able to take all these enormous tasks on his own. It is our task as leaders to place our views before our organization and to allow the democratic structures to decide on the way forward.

On the question of democratic practice, I feel duty-bound to make the point that a leader of the movement is a person who has been democratically elected at a national conference. This is a principle which must be upheld without any exceptions.

Today, I wish to report to you that my talks with the government have been aimed at normalizing the political situation in the country. We have not as yet begun discussing

the basic demands of the struggle.

I wish to stress that I myself had at no time entered into negotiations about the future of our country, except to insist on a meeting between the ANC and the government.

Mr. de Klerk has gone further than any other Nationalist president in taking real steps to normalize the situation. However, there are further steps as outlined in the Harare Declaration that have to be met before negotiations on the basic demands of our people can begin.⁴

I reiterate our call for, inter alia, the immediate ending of the state of emergency and the freeing of all, and not only some, political prisoners.

Only such a normalized situation which allows for free political activity can allow us to consult our people in order to obtain a mandate. The people need to be consulted on who will negotiate and on the content of such negotiations.

Negotiations cannot take up a place above the heads or behind the backs of our people. It is our belief that the future of our country can only be determined by a body which is democratically elected on a nonracial basis.

Democratic, nonracial, and unitary

Negotiations on the dismantling of apartheid will have to address the overwhelming demands of our people for a democratic, nonracial, and unitary South Africa. There must be an end to white monopoly on political power and a fundamental restructuring of our political and economic systems to insure that the inequalities of apartheid are addressed and our society thoroughly democratized.

It must be added that Mr. de Klerk himself is a man of integrity who is acutely aware of the danger of a public figure not honoring his undertakings. But as an organization, we base our policy and strategies on the harsh reality we are faced with, and this reality is that we are still suffering under the policy of the Nationalist government.

Our struggle has reached a decisive moment. We call on our people to seize this moment so that the process toward democracy is rapid and uninterrupted. We have waited too long for our freedom. We can no longer wait. Now is the time to intensify the struggle on all fronts.

To relax our efforts now would be a mistake which generations to come will not be able to forgive. The sight of freedom looming on the horizon should encourage us to redouble our efforts. It is only through disciplined mass action that our victory can be assured.

We call on our white compatriots to join us in the shaping of a new South Africa. The freedom movement is the political home for you, too. We call on the international community to continue the campaign to isolate the apartheid regime.

To lift sanctions now would be to run the risk of aborting the process toward the complete eradication of apartheid. Our march to freedom is irreversible. We must not allow fear to stand in our way.

Universal suffrage on a common voters' roll in a united, democratic, and nonracial South Africa is the only way to peace and racial harmony.

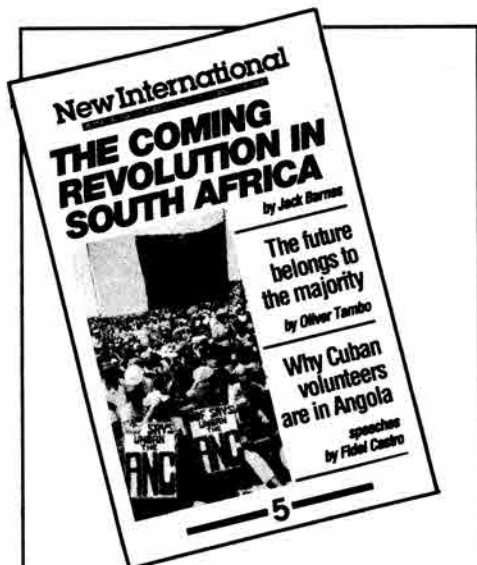
In conclusion, I wish to go to my own words during my trial in 1964.⁵ They are as true today as they were then. I quote: "I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the idea of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunity.

"It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

I hope you will disperse with dignity and not a single one of you should do anything which will make other people to say that we can't control our own people.

4. The Harare Declaration was issued August 21 last year by the Organization of African Unity meeting in Zimbabwe. It set forth conditions the apartheid regime must agree to before negotiations of the future of South Africa can begin.

5. Mandela refers to his opening statement in the Rivonia trial in which he was charged with "sabotage" and attempting to overthrow the government. It was in this trial that he was sentenced to life imprisonment.



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Garment workers in Brooklyn fight to organize union, stand up to firings

BY MAREA HIMELGRIN

NEW YORK — When you open the door to a small building at 66 Whipple Street in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, you find yourself in the midst of a beehive of activity. It is the Brooklyn office of the Metro Organizing Department of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union (ILGWU).

From early in the morning to well into the evening, the hall is filled with young Latino and Haitian garment workers who are fighting to organize a union in the factories where they work in Williamsburg and Bushwick, another section of Brooklyn. Many of them have been laid off or fired and have gone on staff for the union to continue to participate in the union organizing drive.

Five thousand workers are employed by knitted outerwear companies belonging to the Williamsburg Trade Association. The association has a single sweetheart contract with Local 17-18 of the United Production Workers of America — a company union with no ties to the AFL-CIO or any other workers' organization. It has never held an election or called a strike and was formed by employers to keep a real union out.

"Local 17-18 is a phantom," explains Amador Sierra, who worked at Mademoiselle, which is one of the biggest targets of the organizing drive and employs 800 workers. "I didn't even know what Local 17-18 was until we started to sign people up for the International."

Eduardo Duran, who also worked at Mademoiselle, says of the bosses there, "They don't treat workers like workers, but like objects." The biggest reason for the fight for a real union, Duran said, is racial discrimination. "If you don't speak English, the boss thinks you're stupid. The few American workers in the factory have better jobs, make more money, and have all kinds of privileges."

Lack of respect

The workers resent the employers' lack of respect for the cultural and religious customs of the Latino work force. The owners, for example, demand that employees work on Sundays. Most of the bosses are Jewish and Saturday (the Jewish Sabbath) is the one day off in the factories. However, anti-Semitism is not a part of the organizing drive. This is a fight between workers and bosses.

"I remember one time when we wanted to take Good Friday off," said Duran. "It is a holiday celebrated throughout Central America — a day to spend with our children and families. When we asked the boss he said no. Then we asked to at least be paid double time. The boss replied with quite a bit of arrogance, 'The door is open, if you don't like it here you can leave.'"

Although 72-hour weeks are common in the factories, no overtime is paid. For Pablo Zabala, the three reasons that impel workers to want a union, besides the racism of the bosses, are: low pay, no health insurance, and no vacations.

Fully one-third of the workers make \$3.50 an hour or less. Some of the more skilled sewing machine operators make more if they can get good bundles.

On January 18 the ILGWU filed signatures with the National Labor Relations Board requesting an election in which the workers covered by the Local 17-18 contract can choose representation by the ILGWU.

Everyone involved in the campaign realizes that it is a long-term one.

Most signature cards asking for the election were filled out by workers after house meetings. Every night since November 17 when the signature drive was launched, workers have gathered at the Whipple Street hall to go out in teams to the homes of other workers to try to persuade them to sign for the union.

'Campaign for Justice'

Full-time staff from many different ILGWU locals joined in the final push to get signatures before the January 18 filing.

The "Campaign for Justice in Brooklyn," as the drive is called, has been highly visible. It was kicked off with a press conference featuring community and religious leaders and a full-page advertisement in Spanish and Haitian newspapers urging workers, "This is

your opportunity to get a real union. Sign with the ILGWU now!" The ads reprinted representation petitions that workers could circulate in the factories.

The bosses responded by plastering Brooklyn with antiunion posters saying that the ILGWU causes factories to have to close down. This kicked off "The War of the Posters." Every time the bosses put up their posters they would be ripped down and pro-union posters in French, English, and Spanish with the slogan "We want a real union!" would go up.

The backbone of the drive is the in-shop organizing committees. An open letter signed

company has formed "loyalty committees" in the shops. "I don't care what the boss says about me or does," said one leader of an in-shop committee. "This is important; it's not just for me, it's for everybody and I'm going to keep it up."

Activists in the organizing drive have been a part of many union and political activities in the New York area — especially in support of the strikes at Eastern Airlines and Pittston Coal.

On February 3 Edgar Camargo from International Association of Machinists Local 1018 on strike against Eastern at La Guardia Airport addressed 80 participants in the En-

that it's important that you are learning English because you need it to defend your rights in this country."

"The strike at Eastern," he continued, "is a strike for everybody; and with the help of workers like you we're going to beat Frank Lorenzo in a month or two. The strike has hurt him badly and we're going to win."

Camargo explained that this will be an important victory for the whole labor movement because "Eastern is a big corporation and it has the support of the government." When a worker asked what he meant by that he answered, "Look, it's the same in this country as in South America and all over the world — the laws are written for the bosses, not the working class. The courts rule against us and we can't collect unemployment anymore. But even though it's hard we're still fighting. These are political questions — if we're united we can win."

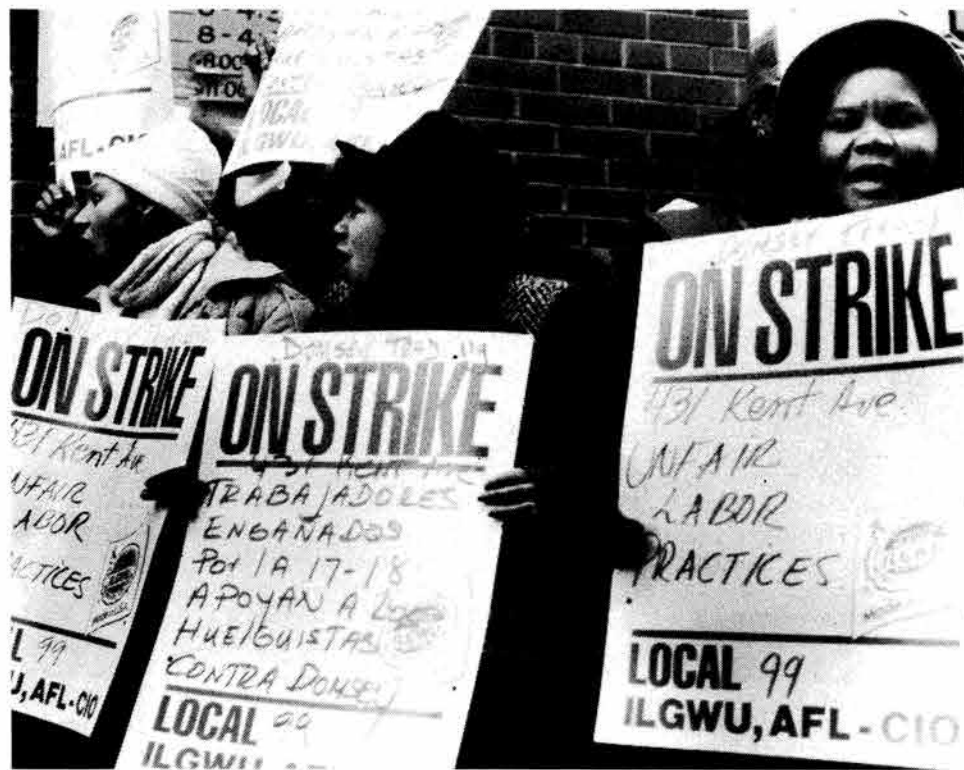
Domsey drive

The ILGWU is involved in other organizing drives in Brooklyn. On December 1 workers at Domsey Trading Corp. filed petitions with the National Labor Relations Board seeking an election so they could vote to be represented by the union. The boss responded by firing four key union activists. In protest, the 200 workers, who are mostly Haitians, went out on strike January 30. A militant picket line of more than 100 workers has been set up in front of the company. A popular sign on the line reads, "I'm not a number, I have a name." This refers to the practice of bosses at Domsey to force workers to wear tags with numbers on them and to address workers by number rather than name.

More than 200 trade unionists came out for a noontime rally in solidarity with the Domsey workers on February 7. Edgar Romney, executive vice-president of the ILGWU, spoke comparing the boss at Domsey to the bosses at Eastern and Pittston Coal, saying, "They all have one thing in common — they are trying to beat back workers who are fighting for their dignity."

Several Eastern strikers and strike supporters participated in the rally.

Marea Himelgrin is a member of ILGWU Local 62-32 and is a volunteer participant in the Brooklyn organizing campaign.



Picket line at Domsey Trading, one of many shops in Williamsburg section of Brooklyn targeted in drive to bring in International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union.

by the in-shop committee of dozens of workers at Mademoiselle was passed out at the factory gate in the opening days of the drive.

The committees are continuing to function despite intense pressure by the bosses. Several union activists have been fired and the

glish class organized by the union at Whipple Street.

Camargo came to the United States from Colombia 15 years ago. Speaking in Spanish he said, "Workers at Eastern Airlines come from all over the world like you do. I think

Hmong workers in St. Paul resist wage cut

BY KEN KAWAKUBO

ST. PAUL, Minn. — "The bosses thought we were stupid. They thought we would never fight for our rights. They were wrong," stated Chau Thao, one of the Hmong strikers. Twelve Hmong are among the 28 workers on strike against Quality Tool here. The strikers are members of Local 1140 of the International Union of Electronic Workers.

Some 15,000 Hmong, a highland people of Laos, live in St. Paul.

When the old contract expired on September 30, Quality Tool proposed a wage increase for some workers, a freeze for others, and wage cuts as large as \$3 per hour for others, including all the Hmong employees. Chi Khan, another Hmong striker, said, "The bosses thought Hmong would accept this" even if other workers rejected it and went out on strike.

Cliff Schwanke, a union steward, affirmed that unity between the white and Hmong workers in the four-month strike has been solid.

Although more than 20 scabs presently work for the company, the strikers feel that it has been hurt badly. Various Hmong strikers expressed their determination to continue to fight. "I have a family and life is tough, but I will never give up until the company goes down," one said. "We are fighters and not eaters waiting for somebody to feed us," another commented.

The police, in collaboration with the employers, have been harassing the strikers. On November 18 the only Hmong working as a scab was killed in a traffic accident. The employers have been trying to implicate the strikers in the scab's death, claiming that he had been harassed by the Hmong strikers.

The strikers strongly deny that they had anything to do with his death.

In December Schwanke was arrested twice in one week for "harassing" scabs and for allegedly violating an ordinance that prevents strikers from parking in a lot next to the plant. Also, the court-ordered injunction limits pickets to three at each gate.

Quality Tool strikers have been seeking to win support throughout the Twin Cities and

regularly have mass pickets, inviting strike supporters to take part in them.

Quality Tool strikers were invited to a union meeting of International Association of Machinists Local 1833 at Northwest Airlines. At this meeting, Quality Tool strikers extended solidarity to the Eastern Airlines Machinists on strike against Frank Lorenzo. The IAM local voted to contribute \$500 to the Quality Tool strike.

Repressive conditions in El Salvador recounted at Washington meeting

BY JANICE LYNN

WASHINGTON, D.C. — An overflow crowd of more than 350 people heard Jennifer Jean Casolo recount the terrifying events of her arrest in El Salvador last November.

Casolo had worked in El Salvador for the past four years as the coordinator of Christian Education Seminars. She served as a tour guide for many groups that visited El Salvador.

Casolo was framed up on charges of possessing weapons, which had been found buried in the backyard of the house she was renting. She was imprisoned and interrogated for 19 days until an international protest campaign succeeded in winning her release.

The January 24 American University meeting was sponsored by some two dozen religious and Central America human rights groups. Sharing the platform with Casolo was America Sosa, the U.S. representative of the Committee of Mothers of the Disappeared — Co-madres.

Sosa's husband, a construction worker,

died as a result of the physical and psychological torture he was subjected to in prison in El Salvador.

Sosa called for denying U.S. military aid to El Salvador. "The terrorists are the military in El Salvador, the oligarchy, as well as some of those in the White House," she declared.

Casolo described the night the National Police stormed her house. She told of the beatings and torture of Salvadoran men and women she heard while held in prison. Casolo herself was not physically harmed.

Casolo stressed the need for all those who had worked for her release to "direct your efforts to working for a negotiated settlement to the war in El Salvador."

Flyers for the March to End the U.S. War in Central America, to be held March 24, were distributed to the crowd.

A small right-wing group picketed the meeting and tried to dominate the question-and-answer period. The meeting continued with no major incidents.



Micmac Indian Donald Marshall

Micmac Indian cleared after 19-year frame-up in Canada

BY ROGER ANNIS

HALIFAX, Nova Scotia — On February 8, 19 years after Micmac Indian Donald Marshall was framed up on a murder he did not commit, the Nova Scotia government issued an official apology to Marshall and his family for the 11 years he spent in prison. Marshall, who is 36, currently lives on Nova Scotia's south shore.

Nova Scotia Attorney General Tom McInnis issued the statement under mounting pressure in light of the conclusions of a judicial inquiry published January 26. The inquiry cleared Marshall of any wrongdoing in the 1971 murder of Sandy Seale and

slammed those responsible for his jailing.

The commission was established in 1986 in response to growing public protest over the treatment of Marshall and other Native people and Blacks by Nova Scotia authorities. Its report paints a damning picture. "The evidence is persuasive and the conclusion inescapable that Donald Marshall Junior was convicted and sent to prison... because he was a native person," it states.

Marshall was jailed in 1971 for the murder of Seale, a young Black and boyhood friend of Marshall. His unending fight against the frame-up has made his name a household word in Canada. His story has been told in a widely sold book, *Justice Denied*, and in a feature movie of the same name.

The Marshall Commission's findings were immediately hailed by Native and Black rights organizations in Nova Scotia. "This report confirms what every Micmac Indian already knows — that our people are not treated fairly or equally before the law," said Alex Christmas, president of the Union of Nova Scotia Indians. "Now it's out in the open for everyone to see."

New stage in fight

The commission's findings have given Marshall new opportunities for clearing his name and winning compensation. This fight is centered on the events surrounding his release from prison in 1982 and his acquittal in 1983 by the Nova Scotia Supreme Court.

The court's ruling at that time labeled Marshall "the author of his own misfortune." It said that Marshall had been trying to rob Roy Ebsary on the night of the murder. Ebsary fatally stabbed Seale, Marshall's companion that night, in a Sydney, Nova Scotia, park, shouting "I hate niggers and Indians" as he struck. He eventually served a one-year sentence on a charge of manslaughter.

No charges, leave alone a trial, ever arose out of the alleged robbery attempt.

The appeal court also concluded that any manifestation of injustice in the 1971 conviction of Marshall was "more apparent than real."

Essentially, Marshall was obliged to prove his innocence to the court, a reversal of the presumption of innocence that is supposed to

prevail. No serious examination of his wrongful conviction was undertaken.

As the Marshall Commission report details, this appeal court decision continued the frame-up. It smeared Marshall's name in the minds of many Canadians. It played "a critically important role" in subsequent negotiations for financial compensation. Those negotiations dragged on for more than a year as the provincial government harassed Marshall and obstructed his claim for compensation.

Under great financial duress, Marshall agreed with his lawyer's recommendation in September 1984 to accept a modest settlement of \$270,000. They believed it was the best settlement possible, given the government campaign presenting Marshall as a robber and a liar.

The appeal court decision also insured that the police, judge, and government officials responsible for his 1971 conviction would not be accountable for criminal or immoral actions committed during the course of the conviction, such as perjury, pressuring of witnesses, or withholding of evidence.

Criminal acts by officials

The commission presents a picture of criminal acts and systematic harassment by officials during Marshall's entire ordeal. It denounces the actions of the Sydney police, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (Canada's federal police), the Nova Scotia criminal court, the Nova Scotia Supreme Court, and many provincial government officials and politicians.

It suggests that the provincial government consider awarding more financial compensation to Marshall. No criminal proceedings, however, are recommended against the long list of authorities responsible for the frame-up.

Most of the 82 recommendations concern suggested changes to the existing judicial system in its handling of Blacks and Natives. Native leaders in Nova Scotia are welcoming recommendations that propose, on a trial basis, the establishment of Native-controlled courts to handle lesser criminal charges against Native people.

Marshall, meanwhile, is demanding that charges be laid against retired Sydney police chief John McIntyre, the Sydney police detective who orchestrated the 1971 frame-up. Marshall's lawyers are demanding that the provincial government reopen the question of financial compensation.

And on January 31 Marshall laid a formal complaint before the Judicial Council of Canada concerning the conduct of the five Nova Scotia Supreme Court judges who ruled on his 1983 appeal and who are still on the court. These judges were heavily condemned by the Marshall Commission. They are appointed by the federal government and can only be removed by a majority vote of the House of Commons and the Senate in Ottawa.

"This case isn't over yet," said Marshall in a January 31 interview. "It may be over for me — I'm out of jail — but not for the courts."

If federal politicians are drawn into the latest round of Marshall's fight, it won't be the first time.

Around the same time the financial settlement was reached in 1984, an up-and-coming federal politician, campaigning in a by-election in Nova Scotia, confided to the author of *Justice Denied*, "If I were prime minister, I would give Donny Marshall a cheque for \$1 million, and I wouldn't care if he spent it all suing the system, because we owe it to him. When you see the young man, you tell him that and give him my best wishes."

Several months later, that same politician, Brian Mulroney, was elected prime minister of Canada. He never kept his promise.

Two years earlier, another federal politician, Jean Chretien, then minister of justice, had the power to pardon Marshall and award financial compensation. He chose instead to send the case to the Nova Scotia Supreme Court. This set the stage for the infamous 1983 Supreme Court ruling. It cost Marshall nine more months of his life and more than \$100,000 in legal fees.

Today Chretien is a candidate for the leadership of the federal Liberal Party.

Rightists in Puerto Rico press for Castro's fall

BY RON RICHARDS

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Two events were held here to mark the 137th anniversary of the birth of José Martí, the Cuban anti-colonial fighter. The different character of the two activities reflects a sharp debate that is going on here about the Cuban revolution.

On January 28 thousands marched through the streets here demanding the overthrow of the Cuban revolution. The march was organized by anticommunist Cuban emigrants with the support of the proimperialist political parties in Puerto Rico. Participants also came from Miami.

The slogan of the demonstration was "Liberty for Cuba: Now Is the Time." The daily *El Nuevo Día* estimated the march at 14,000, the *San Juan Star* at 10,000, making this the largest demonstration held by right-wing Cubans here.

Marchers included the mayor of San Juan, Héctor Luis Acevedo of the Popular Democratic Party, and his opponent in the last election, José Granados Navedo of the New Progressive Party. The PDP favors the colonial status quo, while the NPP supports statehood for the Puerto Rico. The island is a colony of the United States. A message from President George Bush was read to the crowd.

On January 25 more than 100 people attended a forum at the Río Piedras campus of the University of Puerto Rico. The meeting was built around the demands: "Say no to U.S. intervention in Central America" and "Say no to TV Martí." TV Martí is the U.S. government's projected television broadcasts directed at Cuba. The meeting was sponsored by the Círculo Martiano de Puerto Rico.

Ricardo Cobián, a Cuban who is president of the Círculo and the cultural activities di-

rector for the UPR Río Piedras campus, chaired the meeting. He described TV Martí as a violation of Cuban sovereignty and as an "electronic invasion." José Ferrer Canales and Loida Figueroa, both professors, also spoke at the meeting.

The main speaker was to be Luis Toledo Sande, director of the Center of Martí Studies in Havana, Cuba, but the U.S. immigration authorities denied him a visa.

The debate over Cuba has also been reflected on the walls of buildings in San Juan. In Puerto Rico murals, posters, and graffiti with both political and commercial messages cover many walls of buildings, along highways, and at construction sites.

After the U.S. invasion of Panama, for example, graffiti appeared on one wall that said "Yankee Assassins." This was repainted to become "Fidel Assassin." A mural that read "Liberty for Cuba, now is the time," became "Liberty for Puerto Rico, now is the time." It has since been repainted a second time and returned to the original slogan.

The *San Juan Star* reported that along the route of the anticommunist march, slogans in solidarity with the revolution had been painted.

New York forum denounces U.S. provocations against Cuba



Militant photos by Margrethe Siem

NEW YORK — Some 150 people attended a forum here February 10 to protest Washington's escalating provocations against Cuba, including the recent unprovoked attack by the U.S. Coast Guard against a Cuban cargo ship in the Gulf of Mexico. The meeting also heard a report on developments inside Cuba, including the recent convention of the Central Organization of Cuban Trade Unions. The speakers were, from left to right, Angel Cuesta, representing Casa de las Américas; Cindy Jaquith, a militant reporter who recently visited Cuba; and Beverly Treumann from the Venceremos Brigade. Despite several threats to disrupt the meeting, the program proceeded smoothly and broad discussion followed the presentations. Sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum, the protest was held at the Pathfinder Bookstore in Manhattan.

Fisherman convicted in Texas for organizing trips to Cuba

Dan Snow, an ex-insurance man from Texas, was recently convicted in Houston of trading with the enemy. Snow, who faces up to 50 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine, organized fishing expeditions to Cuba. A jury convicted him of violating U.S. laws that prohibit trade with that country.

Under the Trading With the Enemy Act U.S. citizens are prevented from spending U.S. currency in Cuba. Anyone not a journalist or "professional" researcher — categories the government claims authority to define — or who does not have relatives in Cuba, can't go there if they spend any money.

An avid bass fisherman, Snow began organizing fishing trips to Cuba in 1977, during James Carter's administration when the travel ban, imposed in 1960, was temporarily lifted.

In 1982 the U.S. State Department reimposed the ban, making it effectively illegal again for most U.S. citizens to visit Cuba.

Maintaining that every U.S. resident should be allowed to travel anywhere they please, Snow continued visiting the island in spite of the ban. He stated he was heading up research teams to the island studying the largemouth bass.

Snow will be sentenced in April.

CALIFORNIA

Oakland

The Strike at Eastern Airlines. Speakers: Ken Anderson, Eastern striker; Ed Galleguillos, strike support activist, member International Association of Machinists Local 1781; Kathleen Denny, Socialist Workers Party, member IAM Local 1781 and participant in delegation to miners' Camp Solidarity. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. 3702 Telegraph Ave. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (415) 420-1165.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

New Stage in Eastern and Pittston Coal Strikes. Speakers: Miriam Thompson, United Auto Workers Local 295; representatives of International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union Metro Organizing and Hotel and Restaurant Employees. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston

The Fight Against Antilabor Disruption: The Case of the Workers League. Speaker: Jim Altenberg, representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 24, 7 p.m. 116 McFarland St. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Militant Labor Forum. For more information call (304) 345-3040.

BRITAIN

Cardiff

Nicaragua after the Elections. Speaker: Sue Reid, Communist League, member Amalgamated Engineering Union. Fri., Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. 9 Moira Terrace, Adamsdown. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 0222-484677.

London

The National Struggle in Azerbaijan. Speaker: Lee Parlett, member Amalgamated Engineering Union. Fri., Feb. 23, 7:30. 47 The Cut, SE 1. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 01-928 7947.

Sheffield

The Fight Against Antilabor Disruption. Speaker: Pamela Holmes, Communist League. Wed., Feb. 21, 7:30 p.m. 2A Waverley House, 10 Joiner St. Donation: £1. Sponsor: New International Forums. For more information call 0742-729469.

ICELAND

Reykjavik

Building Socialism in Cuba. Meeting to celebrate publication of *In Defense of Socialism* by Fidel Castro. Speakers: Amado Rivero, Nordic section of the Committee in Solidarity with the Peoples (ICAP); others. Sat., March 3, 5 p.m. Skipholt 50. Sponsors: Iceland-Cuba Friendship Assoc., Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (91) 17513.

NEW ZEALAND

Wellington

What's behind Soviet crackdown in Azerbaijan? Sat., Feb. 24, 7 p.m. Pathfinder Bookshop, 23 Majoribanks St. Donation: \$2. Sponsor: Socialist Forum. For more information call (4) 844-205.

During Black History Month . . .

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles

Malcolm X: The Importance of His Ideas for Today. Discussion of new book *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*. Speaker: Eli Green, Pathfinder Bookstore. Sat., Feb. 24, 7 p.m. 2546 W Pico Blvd. Donation: \$3. For more information call (213) 380-9460.

FLORIDA

Miami

Malcolm X: An Outstanding American Revolutionary. Speaker: representative of Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. 137 NE 54th St. Donation: \$2. Translation to Spanish and Creole. For more information call (305) 756-1020.

GEORGIA

Atlanta

Malcolm X: The Last Speeches. Celebrate publication of new book. Sat., Feb. 24. Reception, 7 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. Martin Luther King Community Center, 450 Auburn Ave. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (404) 577-4065.

A Tribute to Malcolm X. Mon., Feb. 26, 3-5 p.m. 301 McPheeters-Dennis, Clark-Atlanta Univ. Sponsor: Clark-Atlanta Univ. History Dept.

IOWA

Des Moines

The Current Stage of the Liberation Struggle in South Africa. Speaker: Hafeni Hatutale, South West Africa People's Organisation. Fri., Feb. 23, 7:30 p.m. 2105 Forest Ave. Donation: \$2. For more information call (515) 246-8249.

MARYLAND

Baltimore

Events held at Pathfinder Bookstore, 2913 Greenmount Ave. Donations: \$2 each program, \$3 for dinner. For more information call (301) 235-0013.

Malcolm X: The Last Speeches. Program to celebrate publication of the Pathfinder book, with Don Rojas and others. Sun., Feb. 18, 4 p.m.

The Battle Against Apartheid in Southern Africa. Speaker: Lindiwe Mabuza, chief representative of the African National Congress of South Africa to the U.S. Fri., Feb. 23. Dinner, 6 p.m.; program 7:30 p.m.

MASSACHUSETTS

Boston

Malcolm X: The Last Speeches. Celebrate publication of new book. Speakers: Louis Elisa, president Boston chapter NAACP; Mel King; Byron Rushing, Massachusetts state representative; Betsy Soares, Socialist Workers Party. Sat., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. Roxbury Community College Student Center, 3rd floor. For more information call (617) 247-6772.

MICHIGAN

Detroit

Events held at 5019 1/2 Woodward Ave. Donation: \$3. For more information call (313) 831-1177.

All programs sponsored by the Militant Labor Forum except where indicated.

New Stage in the Freedom Struggle in South Africa. Speakers: Roger Jardine, general secretary Wayne State Univ. South African Student Committee; Juliette Montauk, Socialist Workers Party, member United Food and Commercial Workers Local 26. Sun., Feb. 18, 7 p.m.

Malcolm X: The Role of His Ideas Today. Video and presentation. Sat., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.

MINNESOTA

Minneapolis

Celebrate the Publication of Malcolm X: The Last Speeches. Speakers: Garmez Parks, Black law student leader, University of Minnesota; Chris Nisan, Africana Student Cultural Association, U of M; Justin Atwood, high school student activist; August Nimtz, Socialist Workers Party; Denise McNemey, Young Socialist Alliance; Lynn Hinkle, member United Auto Workers Local 879 Executive Board. Sat., Feb. 24. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7 p.m. Sabathani Community Center, 310 E 38th St. Donation: \$2. Sponsors: Pathfinder Bookstore, Africana Student Cultural Center. For more information call (612) 644-6325.

NEW YORK

Brooklyn

Malcolm X: Relevance of His Ideas for Working People Today. Speakers: Al Duncan, Socialist Workers Party; representative of Brooklyn College Haitian-American Student Assoc. Translation to Spanish and French. Sat., Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. 464 Bergen. Donation: \$3. For more information call (718) 398-6983.

Manhattan

Events held at 191 7th Ave. For more information call (212) 675-6740.

Malcolm X: The Meaning of His Ideas for Today. Sat., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m.

Cuba's Role in Southern Africa. Panel discussion. Sat., March 3. 7:30 p.m.

NEW JERSEY

Newark

Malcolm X: His Relevance for Today's Struggles. Speakers: Valorie Caffé, president New Jersey Anti-Apartheid Mobilization Coalition; Rich Ariza, Socialist Workers Party; representative of African National Congress of South Africa. Sat., Feb. 24. Reception, 6:30 p.m.; program, 7:30 p.m. 141 Halsey St., 2nd floor. Donation: \$5. Sponsor: Pathfinder Bookstore. For more information call (201) 433-3341.

NORTH CAROLINA

Greensboro

Malcolm X: The Man and His Ideas. Discussion based on newly released Pathfinder book *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches*. Thurs., March 1, 7 p.m. Elliot Center, UNCG. Co-sponsors: Pathfinder Bookstore, Neo-Black Society, Black Studies Committee of the University of N.C.

PENNSYLVANIA

Philadelphia

South Africa: The Defiance Campaign. Sat., Feb. 24, 7 p.m. 9 E Chelton Ave. Donation: \$2.

For more information call (215) 848-5044.

Pittsburgh

Malcolm X Today. Speakers: Justin Laing, Black Action Society, Univ. of Pittsburgh; Jake Gamble, Black League of African-American Culture, CCAC; Jim Little, Socialist Workers Party, member United Steelworkers of America Local 178. Sun., Feb. 18, 5 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

New Stage in the South African Revolution. Speakers: Dennis Brutus, Black Studies Dept., Univ. of Pittsburgh; Sello Miygo Thole, South African student from Soweto. Sun., Feb. 25, 5 p.m. 4905 Penn Ave. Donation: \$3. For more information call (412) 362-6767.

TEXAS

Houston

Malcolm X Today. Speakers: Ester King, community activist; Franklin Jones, professor at Texas Southern Univ. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. 4806 Alameda. Donation: \$2. For more information call (713) 522-8054.

UTAH

Salt Lake City

Malcolm X: Revolutionary and Internationalist. Speakers: Greg Rosenberg, Young Socialist Alliance; Martin Roberts, Black Students Union, Univ. of Utah. Translation to Spanish. Sat., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. 147 E 900 S. Donation: \$3. For more information call (801) 355-1124.

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Malcolm X: Internationalist Leader for All Working People. Speaker: Emily Fitzsimmons, Young Socialist Alliance. Sat., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. 3165 Mt. Pleasant NW. Donation: \$3. For more information call (202) 797-7699.

CANADA

Montréal

Rally to Welcome Liberation of Nelson Mandela. Sun., Feb. 18, 7:30 p.m. Centaur Theatre, 453 St-François Xavier (Metro Place D'armes). Sponsor: Nelson Mandela Reception Committee.

Political Heritage of Malcolm X. Speaker: Steve Penner, executive secretary Communist League. Sat., Feb. 24, 7:30. 6566, boul. St-Laurent. Donation: \$3. Sponsor: Forum Lutte Ouvrière. For more information call (514) 273-2503.

Toronto

Step Up the Sanctions Against South Africa. Speaker: Representative of African National Congress of South Africa. Sat., Feb. 24, 7:30 p.m. 410 Adelaide St. W, Suite 400. Donation: \$3. For more information call (416) 861-1399.

ICELAND

Reykjavik

Malcolm X: A Revolutionary Leader. Film and speakers. Wed., Feb. 21, 8 p.m. Klappartígg 26. Donation: 100 kr. For more information call (91) 17513.

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Stockholm: Vikingagatan 10. Postal code: S-113 42. Tel: (08) 31 69 33.

As legal as the invasion — Joel Peterson is peddling Gen. Manuel Noriega's business cards as souvenirs, \$10 apiece. His brother, an army sergeant, snatched them from



Harry Ring

the Panamanian leader's desk during the invasion mop-up. Is it legal? "Sure," says Lt. Col. Terry Jones. "I myself got some Noriega stationery."

With low-interest mortgages?

— "Porta-Sleepers" — 3' high by 3' wide collapsible cardboard containers — are getting a test run in Phoenix. An Illinois container company hopes to mass market the homeless shelters and is in the process of determining the price.

No Porta-Sleepers? — The kolas at the San Diego Zoo were transferred to the Children's Zoo while a \$200,000 renovation was under way at their regular quarters.

Silver-lining dep't — Chills, fever, the runs, coughing, and muscle pain. In the United States, flu has reached epidemic proportions in 35 states. Also, happily, it's pushed cough-cold medication sales to the \$2 billion mark. That's just the over-

the-counter stuff. Prescription drugs add on another half a billion.

Slippery stuff — Mobil Oil neglected to report "a small leak" of kerosene — maybe 80 gallons, they said — from a 100-year-old tank at their terminal in the Greenpoint section of Brooklyn. Then they said maybe it was 50,000 gallons. For years, Greenpoint residents have been fighting to make Mobil clean up a 17-million-gallon pool of petroleum sitting under the neighborhood since World War II.

Audio tip — If you're interested in CD players but reluctant to give up your record collection, there is the new Finial Technology turntable

that plays LPs with a laser rather than a stylus. \$32,000.

March of American culture — New York dealers in old and rare books report an upsurge in purchases by the rich. The buy by color, not content, with decorators often prescribing how many feet of a given hue. One dealer said, "Books as furniture have become very popular."

No junk for them — Shearson Lehman Hutton, the battered junk bond biggies, are clutching on to their private ski lodge in Beaver Creek, Colorado. Used by company honchos and their cronies, the lodge is surrounded by 12 palatial townhouses, plus gym, spa and indoor-outdoor pool. Cost to shareholders,

\$25 million.

And be sure to floss — Even if you have trouble remembering to brush your own teeth, don't forget Fido or Puss. An Indiana veterinarian warns that tooth and gum decay can lead to heart disease in dogs and kidney ailments in cats. Brush daily with paste specifically formulated for pets. They don't relate to the stuff we use.

Japanese challenge — A U.S. maker of disposable toilet seat covers warns that Japan is creating "some of the most sophisticated and comfortable toilets in the world." Like, the Washlet Queen. It features a hot air blower which assertedly makes toilet paper unnecessary.

Distribute Mandela's 'The Struggle Is My Life'

Continued from front page

The scope and depth of the anti-apartheid struggle today, combined with a leader of Mandela's moral and political stature, opens a unique historical moment to get out *The Struggle Is My Life* and *Habla Nelson Mandela* to the broadest possible audience. Thousands will want to buy these works to learn about the anti-apartheid struggle, read the views of the African National Congress, and deepen the international fight to isolate and bring down the racist South African regime. The ideas in the books are a powerful weapon in this worldwide struggle.

In order to carry out a campaign of this scope, Pathfinder has done a new printing of 15,000 copies.

This emergency effort will require a special mobilization of the publishing house's printshop to print, collate, bind, and ship the books.

In the month prior to Mandela's release 7,500 copies were ordered, reports Norton Sandler, Pathfinder's director of sales and promotions. Some major commercial bookstores are now featuring large window dis-

plays of the book.

The Struggle Is My Life is published by Pathfinder in New York in cooperation with the London-based International Defence and Aid Fund for Southern Africa, which prepared the collection.

Purchasing, reading or rereading, and helping to distribute the book is an important contribution to the freedom struggle. Striking workers and other trade unionists, students, farm workers, anti-apartheid activists, and others should join in the effort.

Pathfinder bookstores will be promoting the book. Eastern Airlines strikers will be selling it to coworkers on the picket lines. *Militant* sales teams in the coalfields will be hawking the book to miners and other working people they meet. All *Militant* readers are urged to:

- Take copies to work and union meetings to sell to coworkers and hawk the books at plant gates and mine portals. No unionist or working person committed to equal rights and social justice should let a day go by without having several copies with them at work to sell on the job.

- Set up large displays to promote the book at celebrations of Mandela's release and other anti-apartheid and political events.

- Organize tables on street corners, college campuses, at community centers, outside churches, and at special events. Prominent displays of the 16" x 23" poster of the book cover will help promote the book.

- Attempt to get reviews in local press, union newspapers, and campus media.

The *Militant* will be reporting on the progress of the campaign over the coming weeks. Reports from local areas on the results of sales and other highlights of the effort will aid our coverage.

Join in the campaign to get this book into the hands of fellow strikers, coworkers, students, activists, and all who celebrate the victory of Mandela's freedom. Pathfinder is offering a special discount of 33 percent for orders of 10 or more books.



The Struggle Is My Life and *Malcolm X: The Last Speeches* in New York bookstore
Militant/Arthur Hughes

Curtis' appeal to the UN

Continued from Page 5

man, or degrading punishment" like the kind I received at the hands of the Des Moines police.

And Article 11 sets out the principle that, "Everyone charged with a penal offense has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to the law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees nec-

essary for his defense." But I was not presumed innocent until proved guilty, and I did not receive all the guarantees necessary for my defense, since important evidence was blocked by the judge from being presented to the jury.

Since I was unjustly imprisoned, I have faced efforts by prison authorities to deny me basic rights to receive communications and publications and to share materials with other prisoners. I have faced arbitrary victimization and harassment because of my participation in democratically protected political activities, including the fact that I am the elected secretary of the Martin Luther King, Jr., Organization inside the prison. This group, named after the prominent U.S. civil rights leader, organizes political and educational activities.

Currently, I am denied the right to receive letters in Spanish or any other languages but English. Prison authorities claim that such materials would pose a "security threat," because they are in a "foreign" language. In addition, I am denied the right to share materials about my case or any political materials with other prisoners.

These denials violate the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 19, which asserts everyone's right to "seek, receive, and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers."

In conclusion, what has happened is a grievous wrong that neither I nor the many thousands of people around the world who have been made aware of the facts in my case are prepared to accept. Can the principles of the U.S. Constitution or the Universal Declaration of Human Rights have meaning when a case such as mine is allowed to take place and stand?

A stand by your commission against the frame-up of Mark Curtis would strengthen my own fight for justice, as well as the broader cause of fundamental political and human rights.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mark Curtis

Gorbachev aims to expand powers

Continued from back page

overall production of goods and services declined last year. Even basic indicators of a society's well-being, such as life expectancy, is falling. Infant mortality is up.

Vladilen Nikitin, chairman of the State Commission for Food and State Procurement, told the CP Central Committee February 7 that the central government has run out of feed grain, forcing the Kremlin to cut grain allocations to all of the 15 republics. Cutbacks are expected to result in a big drop in meat production.

Arbitrary decisions made in Moscow to cut grain allocations to some regions more than others are causing resentment, according to a report in the February 10 *New York Times*. Latvia's shipments are being cut by 40 percent in what a Latvian CP official suggested is a deliberate warning against moves toward independence. Other party officials reported that meat-producing regions are hoarding their products as insurance against local rebellions and refuse to hand meat over to the central government for distribution.

Another example of the mounting problems has been the refusal of the southern republics to deliver fruits and vegetables to Russia. Trainloads of fresh produce have rotted on the tracks in Moldavia and Azerbaijan. After the situation became critical Leningrad authorities ordered thousands of railway cars to the city resulting in chaos at railway stations and further losses.

—10 AND 25 YEARS AGO—

THE MILITANT

A SOCIALIST NEWSWEEKLY PUBLISHED IN THE INTERESTS OF THE WORKING PEOPLE

Feb. 22, 1980

In September of last year there were 500 women working at U.S. Steel's South Works in South Chicago. Now workers there estimate the number of women has dwindled to 100.

Of the 800 layoffs that have hit South Works, half were women. The work force was only 8 percent female before the layoffs. Now it's 2 percent.

The 500 women — a majority Black or Latina — were not there as a result of any friendly gesture by U.S. Steel. They were steelworkers because Blacks and women over decades had fought to win affirmative action in employment.

THE MILITANT

Published in the Interests of the Working People

Feb. 22, 1965

President Lyndon B. Johnson, having taken the first steps in an undeclared war by ordering U.S. attacks on North Vietnam, is now making the decision in secret on whether to proceed with a further escalation.

Johnson started the war against North Vietnam with air strikes February 7, 8, and 10. By proclaiming these bombings to be demonstrations of a new policy of "retaliation" in response to activities of the revolu-

tionary forces of South Vietnam, Johnson has started down a one-way road.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16 — Malcolm X described the February 14 bombing of his home to 700 people at a Harlem meeting last night sponsored by the Organization of Afro-American Unity.

Malcolm X charged that the attackers obviously knew the layout of his home and had attempted to seal off both the front and rear exits with fire bombs. He said the lives of his wife and children and his own had been saved because the bomb meant to seal off the rear exit glanced off the window and burned harmlessly outside. The attackers broke the window of the living room and succeeded in throwing a fire bomb inside.

Malcolm described his recent trip to Alabama. He spoke at Tuskegee Institute and afterward students there in the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee had insisted he go with them to Selma. In Selma, he said, Martin Luther King's spokesman had not wanted him to address the children, but the children and SNCC students insisted that he speak. "I promised them I'll be back — we'll be back," he said.

At a press conference in Selma, Malcolm X recalled President Johnson's campaign promise to "take the sheet off the Ku Klux Klan." Malcolm declared that the government would never do so, but that "we will."

The presentation of the OAAU's program, which was to have taken place at the Harlem meeting, was postponed to a meeting at 2:00 p.m., Sunday, February 21 at the Audubon Ballroom.

Solidarity with Pittston miners

Continued from front page
back the Pittston miners.

The six-week sympathy strike gave a shot in the arm to the fight against Pittston and brought the fight to the attention of workers across the United States.

Pittston strikers reached out far and wide to other workers in struggle. The miners linked up with striking airline workers at Eastern. They doubled their efforts to forge ties of solidarity as they moved out together to win support for their fights.

During the six-week walkouts, rallies of hundreds were held several times a week throughout the eastern coalfields. Miners poured into Virginia to join the picket lines. Pittston strikers opened Camp Solidarity, which became a pole of attraction for fighting workers and unionists. Miners and other supporters started bringing food, donations, and money.

International unions in the AFL-CIO called special solidarity activities, and officials visited Virginia as part of union caravans and spoke at fairground rallies. Mine union locals regularly sent members to help staff the camp.

The momentum continued after the six-week strike was over. UMWA miners and Eastern strikers more and more saw their battles as one. Throughout the summer and fall they spoke, traveled, and picketed together in cities around the country.

At the end of 1989 Pittston posted fourth-quarter net losses of \$18.8 million. Its coal division showed a loss of \$25.2 million for the quarter compared with an operating profit of \$7.7 million during the same period last year.

UMWA miners were confident: they had placed themselves in the best position to beat Pittston.

January announcement

A turning point took place in the momentum of the strike on January 1 when U.S. Secretary of Labor Elizabeth Dole, appointed mediator William Usery, Pittston Chief Executive Officer Paul Douglas, and UMWA President Richard Trumka made an announcement covered on national TV that a tentative settlement in the strike had been reached.

Upon hearing the announcement many unionists around the country, including many miners, began to think the Pittston strike was all but settled. Trips to Camp Solidarity slowed to a trickle, picket lines got thinner, and weekly rallies dropped off.

Pittston has taken advantage of the decrease in solidarity activities and union presence to hire scabs at its Virginia mines and to increase coal production.

At the same time, coal baron E. Morgan Massey moved to take on the UMWA in West Virginia at the A.T. Massey Coal Co. Rum Creek processing plant, aided by the National Labor Relations Board and federal cops. This came one week after the January 16 murder of union miner John McCoy, gunned down on a picket line in southern West Virginia.

Whatever promises Pittston bosses made that they had already reneged on, along with other details of the tentative agreement, were not known because miners had never seen

a contract. Miners were told it would only be distributed after the millions of dollars in fines against the union and charges against UMWA members are dropped.

For months the Pittston strikers built up momentum by moving out into the labor movement and winning support for their strike. Other workers in the coalfields fighting for a contract or to organize a union called on the Pittston miners for solidarity. And Eastern strikers and UMWA miners have picketed together at airports and coal mines.

Reviving this kind of activity is crucial right now in the fight against Pittston Coal Group.

Pittston miners can turn to the Eastern strikers, who at every important turning point in their strike continued to mount their picket lines and reach out for broader solidarity. Even when many eyes were focused on the possible sale of the airline or bankruptcy court proceedings, they continued to draw on strengths from changing moods in the labor movement, especially the miners' resistance.

This staying power and steadfast work to win support for their fight has put the Eastern strikers in a stronger position than ever before.

As the increasingly fierce competition in the airline industry has weakened Eastern owner Frank Lorenzo, the Eastern strikers have grown stronger because of their day-to-day work to keep their strike solid and the lessons they have learned from their experience.

Anniversaries of the strikes

Eastern strikers can play a big role in boosting needed solidarity with the miners' strike by involving Pittston strikers in the March 4 activities that will be held around the country.

Several Eastern strikers and supporters from Greensboro, North Carolina, for example, are visiting Camp Solidarity to invite Pittston strikers' participation in their March 4 activities. In Detroit, a UMWA representative will be a featured speaker at the Eastern strikers' March 2 celebration there.

March 4 actions can unite Pittston and Eastern strikers as did the June 11 rally in Charleston, West Virginia; Labor Day events; and Martin Luther King Day celebrations.

By UMWA miners joining Eastern strikers and other unionists on speakers' platforms March 4, thousands of workers across the country will learn that the battle against Pittston Coal Group isn't over and their support is needed.

This can help inspire unionists and striking Machinists to organize more caravans to Virginia and keep donations coming in. And the Pittston strikers themselves will get reinvigorated.

Broad, visible March 4 anniversary actions, with Eastern and Pittston strikers together — strengthened and battle-tested from their year-long fights against Douglas and Lorenzo — and other unionists, can generate momentum that will continue through April 5 — the anniversary of the Pittston strike.

This can help keep the necessary pressure on the coal bosses to insure that UMWA miners win all that they are fighting for.

The great divide between Lenin and Gorbachev

BY DOUG JENNESS

The "Third Russian Revolution." That's how the editors of the *New York Times* described the recent decision of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union to end the CP's monopoly position and permit other parties to exist and participate in the government.

The first revolution overthrew the tsar in February 1917. The second, according to the *Times*, occurred when "Lenin's Bolsheviks ousted an interim democratic regime

LEARNING ABOUT SOCIALISM

and imposed a dictatorship of the Communist Party" in October of the same year. Lenin, the *Times* asserts, "certainly never envisioned multiparty democracy."

Now, the *Times* and many other big-business papers say that Gorbachev, in a "watershed decision," has overturned Lenin's tradition and has begun a new and better one.

One of the problems with this view is that it assumes that Gorbachev was following Lenin's policies up until now. This, however, places the watershed between Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and V.I. Lenin at the wrong time. The great divide came many decades ago when a privileged bureaucratic caste arose in the Soviet Union. This parasitic stratum, which overthrew the revolutionary policies and practices of the government and Communist Party headed by Lenin, still exists today, and Gorbachev is its principal political representative. The changes in the CP's structure and its diminished role in the Soviet government don't change this.

The problems and policies of this self-serving bureaucracy are very different from those Lenin and the Communist Party faced in the early years of the revolution.

The Soviet government established as a result of the October 1917 revolution was based on the mobilization and organization of the country's majority — the wage workers and peasants. They were the social force that had placed the new government and its Bolshevik leadership in power and defended it with their blood.

The Bolsheviks and the Communist Party they founded were the most politically far-sighted and determined part of the working class and helped give political direction to its struggle.

The privileged caste that emerged and consolidated itself after Lenin's death in 1924, however, had interests very different than those of working people, from whom it robbed a big hunk of the social product. And it has used lies and all the instruments of state repression to defend its privileged status.

The line between the Soviet government and Communist Party in Lenin's time and what they became later under Joseph Stalin was drawn in blood. It separated a revolutionary course from a counterrevolutionary one. The government of workers and peasants was replaced with a government serving the interests of the privileged layers. The Communist Party was transformed from a tool of revolutionary workers into an instrument of bureaucratic domination.

The context, then, in which the development of parties, governmental forms, and so on were played out in Lenin's time was very different than it is under bureaucratic rule.

Lenin had no theory favoring a one-party or a multiparty setup. He and the other communists of his day took as their starting point the actual development of the working class itself. During the Russian revolution, workers, peasants, and soldiers organized councils (soviets) with elected delegates from communities and workplaces.

When the Bolsheviks won a majority of the delegates in the soviets in the fall of 1917, they led an overturn of the provisional capitalist regime and established a government based on the soviets. For the first months of the revolution the Bolsheviks formed a coalition government with the left wing of the Social Revolutionary Party.

When the Constituent Assembly in January 1918 refused to support the new soviet government, it was dispersed. For the capitalists and their apologists this was the original sin of the Russian revolution. This is when democracy was allegedly replaced by dictatorship.

But working people selecting their own delegates, subject to immediate recall, to bodies that could debate policies, make decisions, and then act on them, was far more democratic than parliamentary democracy.

The Bolsheviks didn't start out with the concept of establishing a one-party system. At first the Left Social Revolutionaries and the Mensheviks continued to participate in the soviets, and in fact, the Mensheviks continued to have elected delegates in the soviets through the civil war, until 1921. These parties in the workers' movement were suppressed only when they engaged in acts aimed at forcibly overturning the soviet government. The Bolsheviks were the only party ready to defend the government and the socialist revolution.

To counterpose this concrete evolution to the possible rebirth of multiple parties today has no meaning. As significant as the crises facing the Soviet bureaucracy are today, its restructurings don't represent a watershed between Lenin and Gorbachev.

Tear down the Korean wall!

The capitalist press' enthusiasm for tearing down walls, opening borders, and reunifying countries wrenched apart by imperialist wars suddenly loses its zip when the context changes from Europe to Asia.

The February 8 *New York Times* ran a slick piece called "Don't hold your breath (This wall is stronger)" about Korea that is interesting only because of what it revealed about the lies in the big-business media.

What had become thinkable in Europe, the article said, was unthinkable in Korea. It says that South Korea's so-called minister of unification, Lee Hong Koo, seems hopelessly frustrated by his inability to organize travel and exchanges with North Korea.

The obstacle to reunification, travel, and exchange? Readers are led to believe that the blame rests with the North Korean government. A conclusion that turns the world on its head.

Korea was a colony of imperialist Japan until the end of World War II when Koreans rebelled against their defeated masters and declared their country independent on Sept. 6, 1945. Two days later U.S. troops landed, a U.S. Army military government was imposed in the south, and a reign of terror was unleashed.

Once in control of the south, the U.S. hoped to conquer the north, and by 1950 a full-fledged war raged. U.S. President Harry Truman threatened to use the atomic bomb against China, which entered the war on the side of North Korea. But Washington was unable to reconquer the north and was fought to a stalemate at the 38th Parallel. By the time the war had ended in 1953, some 2 million Koreans had been killed and another 3 million wounded.

To this day a U.S. general remains in operational control

of 45,000 U.S. troops, who are permanently stationed in the south, and 600,000 South Korean troops under cover of the United Nations flag.

In 1977 the South Korean government began building a wall that took several years to complete and has since become a bitter symbol for Koreans in the north and south of the country's division. The *Times* would have us believe that the wall is no wall at all, but a "fractured series of tank defenses that one can easily walk around." A bold-faced lie.

What are the facts? Building the wall cost nearly \$3 billion. It required some 800,000 tons of cement, 200,000 tons of steel, and 4.8 million cubic yards of gravel and sand. At bottom the wall is 11 to 18 yards wide, and at top 3 to 6 yards. It runs the entire length of the Military Demarcation Line, the imperialist imposed border, and is bedecked with rows of barbed wire, facing north.

The U.S.-backed South Korean regime has also built a wall of repression using its notorious National Security Law. This measure prohibits any ties, contact with, or travel to the north. On February 5 the regime sentenced student activist Rim Su Gyong to 10 years in jail and Moon Gyo Hyon, a Catholic priest, to eight years for traveling to the north.

The *Times* has it wrong. It's not the North Korean government that perpetuates the brutal division of the country. That government has called for tearing down the wall and permitting freer travel between north and south.

Working people everywhere should support the just demands of the Korean people for free travel, exchange, and the reunification of Korea. A good place to start — get all U.S. troops out of Korea now and tear down the wall!

Book ban lifted after year-long effort by inmates

Mark Curtis, a Des Moines unionist and political activist, is currently serving a 25-year jail term at the Iowa State Men's Reformatory in Anamosa on a frame-up conviction for rape and burglary.

He has been politically active in the prison and was recently reelected secretary of the Martin Luther King,

BEHIND PRISON WALLS

Jr., Organization, an inmate group. The MLK Organization won an important victory for inmates' rights January 27, which Curtis reports below.

Curtis participated in the campaign that led to this victory. It is one reason that prison authorities targeted him in a new frame-up on charges of "gambling" and "disruptive conduct" on January 28. An article on page 4 covers this new victimization of Curtis.

The article below was written by Curtis before prison authorities launched their frame-up of him.

BY MARK CURTIS

ANAMOSA, Iowa — Inmates here won a victory January 27 for our democratic rights, when several books were made available in the prison library after a year-long effort.

Authorities had ordered inmates reading the 12 books and pamphlets to return them to the Martin Luther King, Jr., Organization January 12, just a week after they first became available. They instructed that the literature, which had been checked out from the prison library, be kept in the MLK Organization's office and not be allowed to be taken out.

The book round-up began when the prison librarian received a call from higher officials telling him to get the books off the yard.

The books had been donated by the MLK Organization to the general population's library. They were part of a collection the MLK Organization has assembled for the purpose of educating its membership and the entire prison population about the history of Blacks, the civil rights movement, and freedom struggles around the world.

Titles included were *The Struggle Is My Life* by South African leader Nelson Mandela; the autobiographical novel *Down These Mean Streets* by Piri Thomas; and collections of speeches by Maurice Bishop, the leader of the Grenada revolution, and Thomas Sankara, the leader of the Burkina Faso revolution. Six of the books were by or about Malcolm X and two books were about the Cuban revolution.

For a number of years, the MLK Organization has maintained a library of 200 books in a cabinet in the general library. They have been available to anyone, and include titles by Martin Luther King, Jr., Frederick Douglass, and Malcolm X.

More than a year ago, the MLK Organization spent \$50 and ordered several new books published by Pathfinder in New York to expand the collection. When they arrived, a long screening process by prison authorities began, reflecting their indecision on how to proceed.

After more than six months of sitting in the Activities Consultant's office, a decision was made by the assistant warden to allow the organization to have the books with the stipulation that they remain in the organization's office. Since only board members are allowed in the office, this amounted to a ban on the books. No reason for this action was given by officials.

The MLK Organization maintains a small office in the prison auditorium, as do other prisoner groups — the Jaycees, Alcoholics Anonymous, and the Inmate Council. The office has a desk, file cabinet, bookcase, and chairs for board meetings. A large painting depicts Black history from its beginnings in African civilizations, like Egypt, to slavery and the Civil War in the United States, and figures like Martin Luther King, Jr., Angela Davis, Harriet Tubman, Frederick Douglass, and others.

When the authorities' decision was reported to the MLK Organization's bimonthly membership meeting, members could not agree with the ban. They were angered that after paying for the books they were not allowed to read them. Some wanted to fight the ban. "Let's call the American Civil Liberties Union," was one action proposed.

As secretary of the MLK Organization, I was scheduled to give a report on the situation to an educational workshop sponsored by us in early October. Speakers from outside the prison were also to address the meeting. The day before the event, however, I was told by the Activities Consultant that any mention of the book controversy by any member of the MLK Organization would result in my being "locked up" for "disruptive conduct." Instead, we were urged to turn in a written proposal for checking the books out.

On November 1 a proposal in line with the rules of the prison and the by-laws of the MLK Organization was submitted. The proposal called for the books to be checked out to anyone who wanted them, and that they be kept in the office when not checked out. Five days later it was returned by authorities "denied" without an explanation.

As avenues were blocked by the administration, the assistant warden agreed to meet with the MLK Organization's president. The assistant warden expressed dismay at the "kind" of books we had ordered, but agreed to allow us to donate the books to the general library to be available for the entire population.

When the MLK Organization's newly elected librarian brought the books to the library January 5 for the first time, he got an immediate response. "Everybody stopped what they were doing and followed me around asking to check out one of the books," he said. "I told them that they would have to wait until I could get the cards typed up." He put library cards in all the books. "When I was done, everyone

vamped on them, and they were all gone," he said.

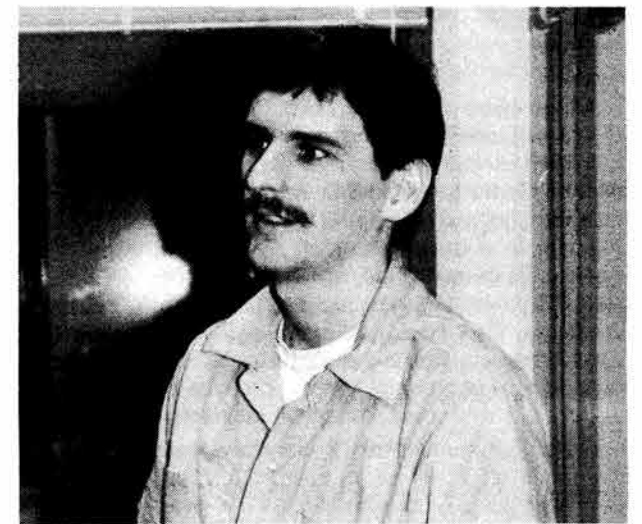
Prior to donating the books, our librarian put up a few leaflets with the prison librarian's approval announcing that the books would be available. He had also organized an MLK Organization member to prepare an oral report on *Malcolm X on Afro-American History* for an upcoming membership meeting.

The books by Malcolm X provoked some controversy. Some inmates thought that Malcolm X stood for violence and racism and that there was nothing for us to learn from his speeches and writings. They suggested that we should abandon the books by Malcolm X and on Cuba because they were making the prison administration nervous.

But most disagreed. "We should be able to read the book and decide for ourselves," one inmate said. "I've heard the same thing about Malcolm X, but I'd still like to find out for myself," said another. "We're not in the business of censorship," the MLK Organization's president said.

An inmate, who was reading *Malcolm X on Afro-American History* before he was forced to turn it in last year, denounced the censorship as "taking away our right to an education." He also called the action "racist" because it is part of the prison authorities' moves to target Blacks for "gang-related activity." He pointed out that even some rap music tapes have been banned.

The books are now available to everyone once more after a general outcry in the prison that forced authorities to back down. This decision should be seen as a victory not just for the MLK Organization, but for the democratic rights of everyone in the prison. The more access we have to our history, to the ideas of revolutionary fighters, and to the struggles of other peoples, the better we can fight for our own rights. For this reason it is indeed a victory for people far beyond a prison in Iowa as well.



Militant/Stu Singer

Mark Curtis at prison in Anamosa, Iowa.

LETTERS

Noriega trial

Gen. Maxwell Thurman of the U.S. Southern Command in Panama was quoted in the December 23 *New York Times* saying that 110 pounds of cocaine was found by U.S. troops in a guest house of Gen. Manuel Noriega.

The *Washington Post* has now reported that the Pentagon said it was not cocaine after all. The substance in question was found wrapped in banana peels and supposedly had something to do with voodoo.

So what was this mysterious substance? After being checked out by "experts," it was determined to be tamales.

I guess the error is understandable. How could the untrained eye, without the benefit of expensive analytical equipment, differentiate between cocaine and tamales? Clearly the banana peels were designed to cause a slip-up.

Iceland

In the article on the formation of the Communist League in Iceland in the January 19 *Militant*, Grétar Kristjánsson is quoted saying, "One of the factors behind the slump is the troubles facing the fishing industry as the result of smaller catches." He also pointed out that the smaller catch is due to a political decision by the government to regulate the permissible fish catch through a centralized quota system put on fishing vessels.

This is a particularly gross example of the lies and distortions being used to cover up the invasion's real purpose, to retain control of the Panama Canal and the military bases. Perhaps Noriega will be found guilty at his Miami trial of smuggling tortillas.

Gary Cohen
Arlington, Massachusetts

A salute

In your article, "Caravans bring toys, cash to coalfields," in the January 19 *Militant*, there is mention of a contribution of toys from prisoners at Rahway State Prison in New Jersey to the striking Pittston coal miners.

We would like to commend all the solid comrades at that prison. We are unable to correspond directly with those in other penal institutions, but we would like to let them know that we salute them and the solidarity they are showing, even under the circumstances of confinement.

We should all learn and draw off that positive move. Right on comrades! Be down! Respect! You have ours.

A prisoner
Michigan City, Indiana

Antiracist protests

Several antiracist protests have taken place recently in the Atlanta area.

A few days after the Martin Luther King Day celebration here, five racists gathered across the street from the King gravesite at a Ku Klux Klan "rally" to preach their ideology of hatred. Over 2,500 cops protected them.

Civil rights figures in Atlanta had campaigned at college campuses to discourage youth from protesting the Klan, but about 150 antiracist demonstrators gathered anyway, outraged by the "desecration" of the King tomb.

Sixty of the protesters boarded buses to ride 40 miles north to Forsyth County along with Atlanta City Council member Hosea Williams. Three years ago a demonstration of 35,000 was held in the all-white county in response to a racist attack on a civil rights march. Protesters returned to Forsyth County this year because the county is still not integrated.

Some 30 people also attended a Militant Labor Forum to protest the recent bombings that left two dead, a federal court judge who had presided over civil rights litigation and a Black attorney who had represented civil rights groups. One of the speakers, Gary Washington, a shop steward for Graphic Communications Union Local 527 and an antiracist activist, explained how the rights of Blacks are violated under the pretext of looking for drugs. This fits in with government attempts to break the backs of workers on strike, like the strikers at Eastern Airlines or Pittston Coal Group.

Helen Lowenthal
Atlanta, Georgia

Truth about Panama

Thank you for the January 26 issue of the *Militant*. Since the paper is exposing the truth, I was surprised the officials in this gulag even let it in.

I totally agree with the perspec-

tive that the U.S. invasion of Panama was a war against the working people of that nation. I was shocked, right after the invasion, at how many prisoners here actually supported Bush's position and believed his excuses in the whole sordid affair. I was the only one who was against the invasion.

Please forgive the smugness of this letter. They don't sell ribbons here so I'm forced to reink my own. I use oil for the reinking. The typos are because it's so hard to concentrate here because of the noise.

A prisoner
Lebanon, Ohio

'Foreign competitors'

I couldn't help smiling when I read the letter in your January 26 issue from Mike Ritchald. He wrote, "Foreigners take much more pride in their workmanship and are less concerned with how much overtime they have to work and when they'll be able to have a break to smoke a cigarette or have a beer."

I work in a factory in Manchester, England, and every year we get a pep talk from the managing director. A favorite theme here is that our "foreign competitors" have work forces that work harder, produce better quality, and don't cause trouble with their unions.

Above any others, U.S. workers are presented as the model. When workers at some British Aerospace plants decided last year to strike for a shorter working week, management gave Boeing in the United States as an example of a company where the workers don't cause such trouble. Pickets at British Aerospace were very interested to read in the

Militant about the strike at Boeing in Seattle and about the horrific conditions and long hours people were forced to work there.

Ritchald should know that the story is the same the whole world over. Our labor power creates all the wealth in the world — wealth controlled by a tiny number of ruling families. Our jobs ruin our health and social lives. They make it hard for us to be involved in political activity to change all this. Small wonder we complain.

Helen Arthur
Manchester, England

Need leadership

I learn from your newspaper the truth of the struggle of the working class. I talk with many people about socialism and all the responses seem to be the same: "Who is going to be the leadership?"

Socialism is a beautiful idea, but the working class needs good, honest fighters, good leadership, and a political party for its interests.

The people I have been talking to are mainly disabled Vietnam veterans. Your paper is very important and I hope that I can get at least a few of them to subscribe.

Joe McBride
Bridgeport, Connecticut

The letters column is an open forum for all viewpoints on subjects of general interest to our readers. Please keep your letters brief. Where necessary they will be abridged. Please indicate if you prefer that your initials be used rather than your full name.

Gorbachev's moves widen powers as crisis in Soviet Union deepens

BY PETER THIERJUNG

Confronted by a deepening economic crisis, rising nationalist revolts, and growing popular discontent, President Mikhail Gorbachev has taken further steps to increase his executive powers within the Soviet government.

Officials of the Soviet legislature, with Gorbachev presiding, decided February 12 to convene a special session "in the nearest future" to drive through the changes needed because of the "extraordinary situation" in the Soviet Union.

The proposed more powerful presidency would allow Gorbachev greater flexibility in rapidly deploying troops to suppress rebellions, implementing emergency economic measures, and asserting himself as the ultimate arbiter in conflicts within the governing bureaucracy and in clashes between contending social forces in the country.

Government and Communist Party officials are discussing the mechanics of how the increased executive authority will be handed over to Gorbachev. Some favor the legislature, the Congress of People's Deputies, naming him to a transitional term after which national elections would be held to fill the spot. Elections this year are not, however, ruled out. They could serve as a plebiscite for Gorbachev, whose populist appeals for support against the past "errors" of Stalinist police-state rule could strengthen his hand.

Other Communist Party leaders have cast the move as an effort to make the chief executive directly responsible to "the people."

Gorbachev also set the stage to abolish Article 6 of the Soviet constitution adopted

More powerful presidency would give Gorbachev greater flexibility in military, economic moves.

in 1977, which guarantees the Soviet Communist Party a monopoly on political power. The Soviet leader, who only last month opposed dispensing with the CP as the principal instrument of rule, is attempting to disengage the discredited CP's grip on the country's administration in favor of a stronger executive apparatus with the appearance of being above parochial political interests. His added proposals for legalizing other political parties are intended to provide democratic trappings for the new setup.

Disintegration of CP

These measures, agreed to by a February 5-6 CP Central Committee meeting, amount to a preemptive bid by Gorbachev to shore up the privileged bureaucratic caste's rule shaken by increased popular discontent, partial paralysis caused by infighting within the bureaucracy itself, and by growing splits and defections from the CP's ranks. The Komsomol, the party's youth organization, is crumbling. On January 16 its official newspaper declared that, "Either we renounce the dogmas, or the young people renounce us." In Estonia the organization dissolved itself.

The swift shattering of the ruling Stalinist Communist Parties in Eastern Europe also loomed large in the discussions of the Central Committee. "Either we prove able to lead a rapid but controlled process of transformation or it will become an uncontrolled deluge," said CP official Vadim Medvedev.

A follow-up CP Central Committee meeting to provide a stamp of approval for the changes is scheduled for early March. The meeting will also complete preparations for a party congress, which has been moved up from later this year to June.



February 4 Moscow action of 100,000 presses abandoning the Communist Party's monopoly. "Pluralism, Property," "72 years of going nowhere," and "Democracy" were banner slogans.

Regional and municipal elections are scheduled over the next two months. Gorbachev's supporters, who expect the CP to be trounced, are hoping Gorbachev's proposals can buy them time and soften the blows.

Gorbachev's moves came on the heels of the Kremlin's January military occupation of Azerbaijan where a growing nationalist revolt had shattered the republic's CP and challenged Moscow's authority.

The February 7 London *Financial Times* reported that strikes continue to cripple more than 40 percent of Azerbaijan's enterprises and have caused \$588 million in losses. The Soviet newspaper *Izvestia* said rail transportation was at a standstill, with many cars of oil and fuel products stranded. Azerbaijan provides 5 percent of the Soviet Union's oil and 60 percent of its oil-field equipment. A recent demonstration of 10,000 near Baku, the capital of Azerbaijan, demanded the release of nationalist Popular Front members arrested by Soviet troops.

CP's domination challenged

Protests and brewing revolts against the CP's domination have emerged in almost all of the Soviet Union's 15 republics, which led the Komsomol's newspaper to predict, "It is quite likely that in 1990 even the concept of a 'Union of Soviet Socialist Republics' will disappear from the world political map."

An unprecedented protest of 100,000 took place in Moscow outside the Kremlin's walls on February 4, the eve of the Central Committee meeting. Demonstrators called for an end to the CP's domination. Countrywide protests have been called for February 25 to continue to press for changes.

Within days following the Central Committee's meeting, a state of emergency was declared in Dushanbe, the capital city of the Central Asian republic of Tadjikistan, after several thousand people burned the CP headquarters following two days of protests. Soviet troops were sent in to restore order, but the protest continues. The republic borders Afghanistan and its population is 60 percent Sunni Muslim.

Massive nationalist movements in the Baltic republics of Latvia, Estonia, and Lithuania continue to press for independence. Shortly after a January visit by Gorbachev to the Lithuanian republic to quell secession demands, hundreds of people in the capital surrounded KGB (secret police) headquarters

in a human chain to prevent truckloads of documents from being removed.

On February 11 some 50,000 people demanding greater autonomy from Moscow marched in Moldavia, a republic bordering Romania in the southwestern part of the country.

Sverdlovsk, the main industrial city in the Urals, was brought to a standstill December 29 by strikes protesting shortages of food,

clothing, and vodka. On February 7 the region's CP boss was forced to resign when workers from industrial collectives threatened they would no longer pay their mandatory party fees.

Coal miners renew protests

Miners in the Donbas coalfields of the Ukraine and the Kuzbas fields in Siberia launched new revolts against regional CP leaders at the beginning of this month, demanding government promises to improve working and living conditions made after strikes last summer be kept. The Donbas and Kuzbas are the country's two largest coalfields. In the Ukrainian mining city of Donetsk, coal miners threatened new strikes if their demands are not met.

At the founding congress of the Popular Movement for the Reconstruction of the Ukraine in September, the Soviet troop commander from the Western Ukraine and the chief of the militia from the capital city Kiev each pledged that their troops would side with the independence movement if Moscow attempted to impose a military solution.

At least a half dozen regional CP bosses have been forced to resign since the beginning of this year. Many more local party officials, including in such major cities as Leningrad, Volgograd, and Tyumen, have also been driven from office.

The crisis facing the Soviet Union, a country of nearly 300 million divided into more than 100 nationalities and ethnic groups, presents Gorbachev and the ruling bureaucratic caste with formidable challenges. The country's rising ferment and revolts have been fueled by severe shortages, economic stagnation and decline, staggering waste, low labor productivity, and corruption.

Government officials acknowledge that
Continued on Page 13

Pathfinder titles draw interest at Havana's Int'l Bookfair

BY MICHAEL BAUMANN

HAVANA, Cuba — From high school students to office and factory workers, thousands jammed the aisles each day of Cuba's Fourth International Bookfair of Havana. The event, held February 6-12, drew an estimated 90,000 participants.

A highlight of the fair was the launching February 8 of a Cuban edition of Alice Walker's novel *The Color Purple* in Spanish translation. Hundreds, including many young Black women, stood in line to gain entrance. This was the first chance to purchase the much-discussed book, which has become an instant best-seller here.

More than 500 publishers from 40 countries and national liberation organizations took part in the fair, which was held in the newly built exposition center on the western outskirts of the city. Many of the fairgoers arrived in buses arranged through their school, workplace, or military unit.

Prominent authors present included Tomás Borge, Nicaragua's minister of the interior. Casa de las Américas, the international literary center based in Havana, hosted a reception for Borge, whose book about the Sandinista National Liberation Front and its founder Carlos Fonseca, *La paciente impaciencia* (Patient Impatience), won the Casa de las Américas award last year.

Among the publishers present was Pathfinder, whose display of the giant mural emblazoned on the wall of its publishing house in New York drew many visitors throughout the fair. Photos of the six-story mural, which depicts a giant printing press churning out books by such revolutionary leaders as Fidel Castro, Ernesto Che Guevara, Malcolm X,

Nelson Mandela, and V.I. Lenin, helped explain the political openings that exist in the United States for producing such books and finding readers for them among young fighters.

A display of the Pathfinder pamphlet on the case of Mark Curtis, the young meat-packer framed up because of his union activities in defense of immigrant workers, helped show the other side of the coin — the continuing battle against antilabor attacks, political victimization, and cop brutality.

Among the Pathfinder titles that drew the greatest interest were the Spanish and English editions of the speeches of Nelson Mandela, who was released from prison in South Africa during the fair. Great interest was also shown in the works of Malcolm X, Thomas Sankara, Che Guevara, and in Leon Trotsky's *History of the Russian Revolution*.

Many people who came by the stand mentioned they had learned of Pathfinder's presence at the fair from one of the 10 interviews with Pathfinder representatives broadcast over Cuban radio and television, including a feature on the national TV news the evening of February 8.

At the ceremony marking the formal closing of the fair, Cuban Minister of Culture Armando Hart pointed to the way the event had demonstrated that "in Cuba, a book is an item of basic necessity." Referring in particular to the expanded participation this year of Latin American publishers, Hart termed the bookfair "one small link in the task of getting to know one another better."

The ceremony closed with the announcement of the date for the next Havana bookfair, scheduled for February 1992.